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Inter-Arab Affairs

'Arafat Meets With Tripartite Representatives

LD2401195690 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Yesterday the brother president and leader Abu Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], received yesterday the foreign ministers of Morocco and Algeria and the Saudi ambassador as a representative of his country's foreign minister in their capacity as members of the Higher Arab Tripartite Committee on Lebanon. The meeting was also attended by brother Lakhdar Brahimi, assistant secretary general of the Arab League.

During the meeting they discussed the latest developments in the Lebanese arena. They stressed the need to concentrate Arab activity on settling the Lebanese crisis and preserving the unity of the Lebanese territories and people.

The meeting was attended by brother Abu-Luft [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department.

Arab Summit Reportedly To Convene Feb in Cairo

JN2001084290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0720 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Jan (WAKH)—Press reports said here today that Arab meetings are underway to convene an extraordinary Arab summit to discuss the situation in Lebanon. They added that Cairo might host this summit, which is expected to convene in the second half of February if the ordinary Arab summit does not convene at the same time in Riyadh.

The Abu Dhabi-based AL-ITTIHAD said the leaders of the tripartite Arab committee will meet in the first week of February and the committee will be asked to extend its mission for another 6 months. Citing a ranking Arab source, AL-ITTIHAD reports that telephone conversations among the Arab leaders are being held to set a date for the extraordinary summit, which will focus on developments in Lebanon and review what Arab kings, princes, and presidents believe to be important if an ordinary Arab summit does not convene in Riyadh.

AL-ITTIHAD cited the source as saying that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has proposed hosting the summit in Cairo and that a number of Arab countries agreed to holding the summit in Cairo for the first time since Egypt's return to the Arab League and the restoration of Egyptian-Arab relations.

Jordan Reportedly To Mediate Euphrates Problem

JN2201202690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1720 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Amman, 22 Jan (WAKH)—Well-informed sources in Amman have said that a prominent Jordanian figure is expected to leave for Turkey in the next 2 days. Arab diplomatic sources in Jordan have told the WAKH correspondent in Amman that the Jordanian move comes within the context of a Jordanian mediation with Turkey to address the Euphrates problem after Turkey's decision to divert its waters to the Ataturk Dam, which adversely affects Syria and Iraq, and the possible repercussions this might have on relations among Turkey, Iraq, and Syria. These sources tied this mediation bid to the Iraqi president's visit to Jordan.

Jordan-Libya Ties To Be Restored 'Soon'

JN2201160990 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 21 Jan 90 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the restoration of diplomatic ties between Libya and Jordan will be announced soon, and that the ambassadors of the two countries will be exchanged by the end of February.

Informed sources in Amman told AL-ITTIHAD that intensive negotiations took place in early January to announce the restoration of ties on 3 January. However, the sources add, the formation of the Jordanian Government and the Jordanian parliament's vote-of-confidence session, as well as further discussions on certain technical and diplomatic issues between the two countries, led to a postponement of that announcement.

The sources added that a high-level Libyan envoy—probably Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council—will visit Amman in the next few days following Arab—particularly Egyptian and Tunisian—efforts and contacts to speed up the restoration of the ties that were severed between the two countries in 1984.

Chedli Klibi Lauds Husayn's Remarks on Shamir

JN1901200790 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi has paid tribute to the clear pan-Arab stance expressed by His Majesty King Husayn when he commented on the grave dangers posed by the statements recently made by the Israeli prime minister on the creation of a Greater Israel that would be capable of absorbing all.

In a statement to the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Tunis, Klibi said: The UN Security Council member states must realize that His Majesty King Husayn was correct in his clear vision of the dimensions and dangers posed by Shamir's statements. His majesty the king warned that Israel has begun to implement its scheme, which seeks to make Jordan a solution for the Palestinians. His majesty the king added that the new settlements to be built for Jewish immigrants would pose threats to Jordan and to the interior of the Arab homeland, as well as to the Palestinians.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Official Says U.S. Not Serious About Peace

JN2401131390 Baghdad INA in English 1115 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 24, INA—Mr 'Abd-al-Rahim Ahmad, member of the Palestine Liberation Organization Executive Committee and Secretary General of the Arab Liberation Front said that plans released by Shamir and Baker were two faces of one coin, aimed at gaining time to quell the surging uprising inside the occupied Arab territory.

In a statement exclusively to AL-THAWRAH daily, Mr Ahmad said that the U.S. Administration was truly unserious towards the process of peace. It was trying to ignore the most important element in any peaceful settlement in the region namely, the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Mr Ahmad referred that the aim of Baker's plan was to stamp out the Palestinian uprising and it was submitted as a counterplan for the Palestinian peace plan.

Mr Ahmad lauded Iraq's most recent peace initiative launched by President Saddam Husayn on January 5 for engineering durable and just peace with Iran and also praised Iraq's firm stance supporting the uprising by all available means.

'Arafat Interviewed on Uprising, Peace Talks

JN2001204090 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 19 Jan 90 pp 14-21, 98

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu-'Ammar, in Cairo—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] AL-MUSAWWAR: It is being said that Palestinians are killing other Palestinians under the pretext that they are agents. The Western media have been focusing on this issue over the past 2 months. What is your stand on this issue, the issue of agents and those who collaborate with Israel?

Abu-'Ammar: The number of collaborators who have been executed has reached 118. We have experienced, and I say this frankly, some indiscipline. The popular committee meets and states that this or that person is a collaborator. They go to him at night and kill him. We notice that only one person, a female nurse, was killed in the past 3 months. Why has this stopped? Because I issued an order banning such a thing. The decision to execute someone should be a unanimous one within the unified leadership of the intifadah. It is permissible to make such a decision by majority in the subcommittee. As for the area's command, it should also be unanimously adopted.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Then the decision to execute someone must pass through three stages?

Abu-'Ammar: Yes. The popular committee adopts its decision by majority. The death sentence on a collaborator should be submitted only if it is adopted by a majority vote. The unified leadership then adopts its decision unanimously. Therefore, in the first stage it should be by majority vote, and in the other two stages the decision is made unanimously.

I have delegated my powers to the unified leadership in this respect only, the same as a president of a republic delegates his powers to the field commander to execute this soldier or that officer. In spite of this, we told them that if possible, they should send the file to us so that we may study it. If this is difficult, they should send us the files for review after the execution.

We have studied the files of those who were executed and found that 2 of the 118 who were executed were innocent. We have declared them to be martyrs of the Palestinian revolution. [passage omitted]

AL-MUSAWWAR: What is your definition of a collaborator? Does the worker who goes to Israel for work fall within this category?

Abu-'Ammar: The collaborator is the one who deals with the Israeli Mosad against his people, spies on his people, and provides the Mosad with information. Such persons form a very small group of our people.

AL-MUSAWWAR: The drop to only one in the number of those executed in the past 3 months then really shows that discipline was needed as well as specific yardsticks?

Abu-'Ammar: For this reason, we said that the decision must be unanimously made in two of the three stages. As a result of these measures, the Israeli Army command admitted that the network of collaborators has collapsed, a network which the occupation had depended on spying on national forces in the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

AL-MUSAWWAR: Has Hamas actually approved the Palestine National Council's [PNC] resolutions?

Abu-'Ammar: It has representatives at the PNC and it is also a member of the Central Council.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Is there any strategic approval of the goals defined by the PNC?

Abu-'Ammar: Yes, there is a strategic approval, and Hamas opposes only Resolution 242 as George Habash does.

AL-MUSAWWAR: George Habash objected to the resolution and gave you 2 years, believing that the whole resolution will not work. Is Hamas' objection of this kind?

Abu-'Ammar: Hamas' representative at the PNC said: I approve everything except Resolution 242. [passage omitted]

AL-MUSAWWAR: Do you rely much on the peace movement that could not affect the Israeli decision?

Abu-'Ammar: Israel's intransigent position is mainly due to the U.S. position. I announce this point to attract President Bush's attention. The U.S. position has led directly to Israel's intransigence. I wonder: Why did the United States use the veto against me six times in 1 year, at an average of two vetoes a month? How can the U.S. Administration protest to a superpower, the Soviet Union, which can destroy the world 50 times, over a decision by the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium to raise our representation from an office to an embassy? Such decisions are related to sovereignty, and no one has the rights to object to them.

The United States went beyond that when it reduced the budget of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency from $64 million to $18 million and accused the Food and Agriculture Organization of extending aid to the Palestinians in cooperation with the PLO. How can this occur at a time when the United States is increasing all kinds of assistance to Israel, including strategic weapons and the star wars? The United States reduced its donations to the agency by $18 million [as published]. Has the United States become poor because it gives this amount of money to the refugees? Generally speaking, people who have no sense of shame will do whatever they please.

These positions encourage Israel, which has the right to take tough positions as result of U.S. pampering. The United States used the veto six times in 1 year. At the same time, it gives Israel money and weapons lavishly and exercises pressure in the international circles in favor of Israel. It is the U.S. pressure that has deprived me of full membership of the United Nations. It is the United States that prevented the collapse of the coalition government in Israel and announced that this government should continue. [passage omitted]

AL-MUSAWWAR: Do you think a static American position, which we can only call biased, threatens your alliances and the entire Palestinian movement?

Abu-'Ammar: Not in the least. I am a candid man. I said in the Arab League this week that should current peace efforts stall and fail to bring about a solution to our problem, I will call a session of the PNC that elected me and tell them their goods have been rejected and that they will have to do something about it. The United States will also have to do something. I will announce my resignation forthwith and will not allow myself to become a plaything in the hands of the Americans. [passage omitted]

AL-MUSAWWAR: If you so mistrust the United States, what hope is there left?

Abu-'Ammar: The hostility was initiated by the United States and it will not be possible for me to run away from my enemy. We did not instigate the antagonism. But I will not run. I will confront the enemy.

AL-MUSAWWAR: What is the state of the Palestinian-American dialogue?

Abu-'Ammar: I am sorry to say that even former State Secretary George Shultz had a more positive approach than Baker. He said that when the Palestinians recognize UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the United States will start a dialogue with us and invite us to the international conference and that the Palestinians are entitled to press for an independent state at the parley.

But Baker has been backtracking from the Shultz line. Never mind Baker's assertion that Israel has to renounce the dream of Greater Israel and Bush's statement on the need to end Israeli occupation. But the practice gives the lie to utterances.

Consider what happened in Prague, where only 17 people were hurt, and in Palestine where there have been 55,000 wounded, 1,024 martyrs, 6,500 disabled, and 5,500 abortions from toxic gases the Israelis like to call tear gas. American and Belgian medical teams have shown the gases used by Israel forces to be poisonous, containing chemicals with the potential of hurting eyes or causing blindness.

AL-MUSAWWAR: How would you assess the Palestinian-American dialogue?

Abu-'Ammar: The Americans are engaged in it apologetically.

AL-MUSAWWAR: And what is the point of a dialogue that makes no headway?

Abu-'Ammar: I never completely burn my bridges with others. And why shoud I turn my back on the dialogue? I will not be the one to break it off. The United States was obliged to begin the dialogue under an agreement between former Secretary Shultz and myself brokered by Sweden's Foreign Minister Andersson. The dialogue was supposed to have developed, and I was supposed to have gone to the United Nations. Ninety-three American congressmen, however, called for forbidding my attendance at the United Nations. If I had anything new to add to what I have already said, I would have decided to go to the United Nations even if the venue for the meeting were to be moved to Geneva again. But there is nothing more for me to offer beyond my initiative. I, therefore, did not hassle with the United States over attendance at the UN session since no useful purpose could have been served. I had no plans to go the United Nations. However, I did not apply for an entry visa to the United States and never expressed an intention to go to the United Nations. They imagined that. Isn't that bias against me?

AL-MUSAWWAR: Isn't there a point to the saying that any real change should first take place in Israel before it takes place in the United States?

Abu-'Ammar: No. This change should first take place in the United States. Here I must remind you that when the

tripartite aggression of two big powers, the United Kingdom and France and Israel took place in 1956, they remained on the telephone for 48 hours waiting for the U.S. President's orders. What happened when he ordered them to withdraw? They immediately withdrew.

AL-MUSAWWAR: But isn't the big power absent this time?

Abu-'Ammar: This is not the important thing. The United States can say that there is a resolution and it must be respected. They asked me to recognize Resolution 242 and Resolution 338. The latter refers to the international conference. Why don't we attend the international conference? Why do they refuse to attend it? Can Israel refuse to go to the international conference? Can it refuse to go to the international conference which is attended by the five UN Security Council permanent members and all the parties to the conflict? It is the United States which is preventing the convocation of the international conference. It is the one that can force Israel to attend this conference. [passage omitted]

AL-MUSAWWAR: If 1,500 Israelis come to meet with you in Cairo, will this pose a real problem for Shamir within the Israeli Cabinet?

Abu-'Ammar: I welcome them. However, there will be some logistical aspects dealing with their visit and my meeting with them in Cairo, whether in terms of arranging for the meeting or its date and venue, not to mention other matters.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Can Shamir insist on holding elections in the occupied territories?

Abu-'Ammar: I challenge him to hold these elections. I challenge Israel and the United States to hold these elections while the PLO rejects them.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Does this mean that you will participate in these elections if Shamir decides to hold them?

Abu-'Ammar: Do our people in the occupied territories participate in elections at the instructions of the colonizers? The Palestinian people participate in elections only at the orders of their command. When their command tells them to participate, they will do so. But when their command tells them not to participate, they will not participate. When I announced in 1976 that we would enter the municipal elections, we participated in these elections.

AL-MUSAWWAR: But what if Shamir decides to accept the challenge?

Abu-'Ammar: I defy him to do so.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Will you defy him by entering these elections, or by abstaining?

Abu-'Ammar: By abstaining.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Then you will boycott these elections?

Abu-'Ammar: I am a disciplined man and committed to the Arab summit resolution that stipulates that elections in the occupied territories should be held far from the Israeli occupation and under international auspices. [passage omitted]

AL-MUSAWWAR: What can you get out of the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue?

Abu-'Ammar: This dialogue is a Soviet-U.S. proposal that works as a preparatory step to holding an international conference. So I agreed to this. They said let us make preparatory steps, and I agreed.

AL-MUSAWWAR: So, what is the use of this dialogue?

Abu-'Ammar: Nothing. There are 117 states that recognize the Palestinian state, and the United Nations recognizes the PLO.

AL-MUSAWWAR: But the Israelis still have the land?

Abu-'Ammar: Pretoria also had the land in Namibia, but where it is now? Ian Smith also had the land in Zimbabwe, but where is it now? Do not forget that Sinai was also at their disposal. [passage omitted]

AL-MUSAWWAR: Is there anything left in the Palestinian quiver to be offered?

Abu-'Ammar: This is what Dennis Ross says. He told the Palestinian brothers in the occupied territories who visited him: Does your president still have any other concessions to make?

AL-MUSAWWAR: Do you have anything to say to Dennis Ross?

Abu-'Ammar: I tell him that I am not ready to address Likud members. I know that this will anger him, but let him get angry. Do you know that when Dennis Ross comes to Israel he does not go to a hotel, but to Rubenstein's house. When Rubenstein goes to the United States he also goes to Dennis Ross' house. We are not Red Indians. [passage omitted]

AL-MUSAWWAR: What is your opinion about Khalid al-Fahum's attempts?

Abu-'Ammar: We welcome him, he is a PNC member. I did not prevent anyone from coming to the PNC or to the Palestinian institutions. He is welcomed to the next PLO Central Council's meeting. All those who speak of this are PLO Central Council members. A PLO Central Council meeting will be held next month, and we welcome them to this meeting. I invited them to this meeting.

AL-MUSAWWAR: What about the dissidents?

Abu-'Ammar: I am talking about the members of the recognized organizations, which are al-Sa'iqah, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, and some independent figures such as my

brothers Khalid al-Fahum and 'Abd-al-Muhsin [Abu-Mayzar]. If they want to form a party or an organization, then we welcome this. Let them submit this to the PNC. I cannot decide this, but the PNC is the organ that has this power to decide on this. The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine used to be one organization, but they split, and they accepted this. Before this we and the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF] used to be one organization, and then the PPSF split. This is democracy. [passage omitted]

AL-MUSAWWAR: Regarding the recent armed Palestinian presence in southern Lebanon, can we consider this the beginning of a new approach?

Abu-'Ammar: I would like to tell Sharon, Shamir, Alexander Haig, and Reagan that no one can defeat the Palestinian rifle. The Palestinian rifle has continued to exist despite aggressions, and it has not gone anywhere despite all conspiracies against it. So, no one can defeat the Palestinian rifle. We are there to protect our people because we will not forget Sabra and Shatila. Four massacres were perpetrated in one camp. The Palestinian rifle is there to protect our people and to confront the Israeli occupation along with the Lebanese nationalist movement. There are more than 22 thousands [not further specified]. I have also dispatched two battalions to carry out disengagement.

AL-MUSAWWAR: How do you view the new Lebanese president?

Abu-'Ammar: We maintain contacts with them, and we have the Cairo agreement, an official Palestinian-Arab-Lebanese agreement. No side can cancel it. Neither the Palestinian nor the Lebanese side has the right to cancel it.

President Amin al-Jumayyil asked for a new agreement, and I welcomed it. We still have half a million Palestinians in Lebanon, and I have to see how they live there.

It is not we who have closed the PLO's office in Beirut. It is they who closed it as a result of pressure from some Arab countries which asked Lebanon to close the office and confiscate the embassy. [as published]

AL-MUSAWWAR: Although you said that the Palestinian state suffers from a financial crisis, reports say that you extended loans to some countries. What do you say?

Abu-'Ammar: How can you believe this? Just mention one country and I will recover my money from it.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Nicaragua.

Abu-'Ammar: I challenge anyone to prove that I have lent money to any country in the world. Any such lending takes place through banks and can be easily proven. On the contrary, I asked Nicaraguan President Ortega for assistance. During my meeting with him at the recent Belgrade nonaligned conference, I personally asked him for donations to the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

AL-MUSAWWAR: Do you have in mind conditions or bases for sound Syrian-Palestinian relations, and what are these bases?

Abu-'Ammar: First, no Palestinian detainee should remain in an Arab jail. Second, there should be no interference in Palestinian domestic affairs and independent Palestinian decisionmaking. Third, there should be recognition of the Arab summits' resolutions on Palestine.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Did you really have fighters in Romania?

Abu-'Ammar: Thanks be to God, this has been denied by the country's foreign minister and army chief of staff. For our part, we would ask what the Mosad officers who fled Romania were doing there. We would ask the same question about Mosad officers who fled Panama. [passage omitted]

AL-MUSAWWAR: You have said that you will call a PNC session shortly and that there are other options open to you. What are these?

Abu-'Ammar: I have said that in the event of attempts to completely sideline us, I will call a PNC session and tell them their goods have been rejected. I have numerous options, but I will keep my cards close to my chest. They know that, by God, I have stood firmly against the use of weapons by the intifadah and that I am coming under tremendous pressure.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Given the American position as you have portrayed it, how do you think it will be possible to let the United States become neutral?

Abu-'Ammar: A little Arab pressure on the United States, just a little. When the North Sea oil dries up in 1991, the United States will want to buy Arab petroleum. And when the American oilfields themselves run dry and oil consumption in the United States increases, the American need for the Arabs will grow greater and greater. We need further Arab pressure on the United States. Let's get angry.

AL-MUSAWWAR: We thank you for your time.

Abu-'Ammar: I thank you for giving me the opportunity.

PLO's 'Abd-Rabbuh Leaves for Syria

JN2401094890 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Jan 90 p 26

[Text] Amman—PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh left Amman yesterday on a 48-hour visit to Damascus. A high-ranking Palestinian source told AL-DUSTUR that the PLO is looking forward to establishing clear relations with fraternal Syria and that it does not set preconditions for the establishment of

these relations but requests the release of approximately 4,000 Palestinians from Syrian prisons, recognition of the Palestinian state, and opening a Palestinian embassy in Damascus.

The source added that several Palestinian-Syrian meetings at the highest levels have recently been held to achieve that goal, including the meeting that was held between Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' on the sidelines of the recent nonaligned conference in Belgrade and the meeting that was held between Faruq Qaddumi and Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam during the recent session of the UN General Assembly. The issue of the Palestinian detainees was raised at this meeting and the Syrian side voiced readiness to receive a Palestinian delegation to continue contacts and normalize relations.

Algeria

Prime Minister Interviewed on Economy, Politics

LD1801221890 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1940 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Studio interview with Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche by program moderator Mourad and correspondents carried in the "Meeting the Press" program—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Mourad] Mr Prime Minister, 4 months ago a government fell and another one was formed under the leadership of Mouloud Hamrouche. We were told that Mr Hamrouche is a man of files, a technocrat, a man whose task will be to speed up reforms. Today, there are those in the street who say that nothing of these reforms has been achieved. Some believe that much has been achieved. Others do not place themselves in either of the two camps. Mr Prime Minister, where do you place yourself in all this, or what have the reforms achieved until now?

[Hamrouche] First of all, I thank Algerian television, its staff, and technicians who are responsible for carrying this program to the brother citizens. [passage omitted] About development and what reforms have been implemented, it is possible to say categorically that a broad front of democrats believes in the reforms, in democracy, in the freedom of expression, and in the freedom to organize and hold meetings. This has been achieved in a few months, and if it shows anything, it shows that our people's deep desire is for democracy and the achievement of democracy, and the exercise of responsibility clearly and openly by officials. This is what can be said about what political reforms have been achieved. The vitality of these reforms has yielded some contradictions and excesses which the simple citizen does not understand, which are not understood by the citizen used to living in tranquillity, and which force him to raise some questions regarding the usefulness and seriousness of democracy: Does democracy lead to chaos? Does it lead to violence? These are some of the questions, and I leave the answers to the brother journalists.

[Mourad] I believe brother ('Ammar) has a question on this point. ('Ammar Belhimer), EL-MOUDJAHID.

[Belhimer] Mr Prime Minister, the burgeoning democratic march in our country is witnessing several disorders, errors, represented in many forms of violence and fanaticism, infringement on citizens' freedoms, and at times on their security and the stability of public establishments. Today we feel that those errors and political parasites require the intervention of the democratic state, require authority. Are you determined to give all the authority to the democratic march, and how?

[Hamrouche] Some concepts must be clarified. Yes, there is a nucleus of violence. Yes, there is a nucleus of excesses and exaggeration primarily in opposing political speeches. Yes, this exists, and we consider this a new exercise which requires time for all the political activists and parties to adjust their methods of operation. They believe that since they are young and somewhat weak, they need violent language in order to recruit supporters for their political programs. But all citizens, journalists, everyone should realize that those who believe in democracy have formed parties, and that those who believe in forming associations have done so. Today there are 19 political parties, 12,000 associations, including 200 national associations. This is proof of the vitality of the people and the vitality of the democratic movement, and the vitality of the movement of setting up associations. This is categorical proof that the people are now mature, and have accepted this form of exercising government and actions, the of realizing its interests and defending them. But in order not to make a mistake I had already declared and denounced tha acts of violence, and said that the government is determined to take matters in its own hands and to hit with an iron fist those who hide behind acts of violence.

What do we understand from this? We understand that those who are behind the violence do not desire to resort to clarity and open action. This means they realize they cannot, first, live in openness, because they have illegal interests. This is also a third piece of evidence that the real difference is between those who believe in the interests of the people, state and society, and those who want to enslave the people by squandering the people's interests and by taking control of their wealth. [passage omitted]

[Mourad] The second aspect of the question concerns the means with which we can confront such a phenomenon in society.

[Hamrouche] The first confrontation and the first bastion are primarily the citizens; the citizens who are interested in their country, their life, the future of their sons and grandsons. The one who believes in Algeria and believes it is his land in which he will live and die is the first person responsible for denouncing such actions by a secret group, which is trying to go backward, because it lost interests it had illegally controlled. Second, the political parties that have accepted the new constitutional principle should defend the Constitution. The parties, which were a result of this Constitution, should now denounce violence and not only do that, but also mobilize their activists against violence and against those behind it in the first degree. [passage omitted] Of course, the government in its capacity as the executive power, which has a security apparatus and a justice apparatus, will of course take all the measures and work for the rule of the law and for law to be above all. There is no hesitation in the implementation of the law and in the push for the respect of the law, irrespective of the circumstances and the price. Of course, you witnessed painful events, and I draw your attention to another final point: One should not hasten to ascribe some of the acts of violence and intolerance in a haphazard way, without precise information and without authenticating the correct affiliation of those people. I say to those who are

behind the acts of violence and intolerance, they are in the long term against all the political parties in the arena today, not only against the government or state establishments; rather, they are against all the political parties that have accepted the constitutional principle and accepted the principle of the people's freedom of choice. [passage omitted]

[Bouakba of L'UNITA] Excuse me, Mr Prime Minister, the point here is that even the Constitution as a basis for political action among the parties, each party took from it the articles which interests it, irrespective of other articles; that is, they do not implement the remaining articles although the Constitution was accepted as a whole. This means that even the law cannot solve the existing problems.

[Hamrouche] The question is unclear; we agreed to talk frankly on this program. I have got you and all the citizens accustomed to my frank talk. If there is a definite clear point, let us refer to it.

[Mourad, speaking to Bouakba] A question like yours should be clarified.

[Bouakba] I mean to say that there is no oppressive apparatus to force parties to respect all of the Constitution now. Therefore, they will pick what suits them, and at the same time demand changing the Constitution.

[Mourad] The Constitution is a whole and should be respected as a whole. I believe this is clear.

[Hamrouche] I believe that even if we accept the idea of brother Bouakba that there are parties that respect part of the Constitution and ignore the rest, from the legal aspect and from the formal aspect all these parties agree to work within the framework of the Constitution. [passage omitted]

When we give freedom, freedom is a responsibility. It is not possible to follow the daily words of a politician, whether he respects the daily constitutional principles or not [as heard]. What will lead to the respect of the Constitution is when these parties organize themselves on the national level and become indeed representatives of sectors of public opinion and sections of the population; they acquire responsibility in guiding public opinion and forming political dialogue. At the same time, strength and representation will give them the ability to supervise their own political officials. [passage omitted]

[Sebaa, ALGERIE ACTUALITES] My question concerns the noticeable excesses now. Some say they are the result of lack of intervention by the state, the state which used to play its role in society, used to play the major role. Society moved to a democratic stage and some believe that the state backed off and this has led to excesses. [passage omitted]

[Hamrouche] The state is not absent from society, cannot be absent, and will not be absent. The state will be present in all fields, but the method of presence and the method of the exercising authority change. This is what is intended. If we permit freedom for democratic practices, this does not mean that we have abandoned people's lives to chaos or violence. We did so because we believed that people are all mature, aware, and defend their interests and the national interests. The state will be present through the laws, justice, the apparatus of justice, and the various forms of economic management. It will also be present through the various forms of administrative supervision. [passage omitted]

At the same time the people will add new supervision which did not exist in the past. In the past, there was the supervision and the presence of the state in all daily activities. What is new is that the state continues supervision in a new way and all citizens, directly through associations, parties, or elected representatives, will also supervise the work of the state. [passage omitted]

[Lenakel, Channel 1] Allow me, Mr Hamrouche. It seems many people understood that democracy is where a person does whatever he wants. When you were entrusted with the premiership, the president asked you to carry out reforms completely. Can we know the features and picture of our society once it is built and the reforms are accomplished? Thank you.

[Hamrouche] This is a very important question because it asks: What is the end result and the objective of these reforms? [passage omitted] What will be achieved in the future is that there will be a society—the Constitution is clear on this matter—which separates the systems of authority. There will be a fully independent judicial authority which defends the people and arbitrates disputes between individuals and between individuals and the administrative apparatuses and the state's apparatuses. There will also be a legislative authority which stems from the people and its will through the election of deputies to the National Assembly. Those deputies will be in charge of enacting laws which govern society, an independent authority. Then there will be an executive authority which ensures the implementation of the law and the respect of the law, controlling the wheels of the economy, and supervising the major balances of the economy—of course, together with defense policy and foreign policy which are the province of the president of the Republic in his capacity as the supreme head of the executive authority. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified woman, in studio audience] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The journalists have referred to an important issue: the violation by some political parties of some of the articles of the Constitution. Your Excellency said most of those parties have not violated the provisions of the Constitution. But what do you say about the parties which did not respect this Constitution and totally ignored two basic articles of the Algerian Constitution, Articles 2 and 9, which provide that Islam is one of the strongest anchors of this nation, and began freely to demand secularism in the country of Islam. What has Your Excellency to say about this? [passage omitted]

[Hamrouche] Indeed, we have dealt with this issue at length and it is also necessary to confirm once again that one cannot pass judgment on intentions and on statements. Each one makes statements and defines his attitudes. If we start from the basic premise: If the people vote for a majority which believes in the implementation of the Islamic shari'a in full, this will be so. But if we believe in the basic premise: What will the attitude be if a party program or list which calls for secularism wins a majority? I ask the question. [passage omitted]

[Mourad] A big part of the audience now may believe that all we have touched on are marginal issues, because many people say that the major issue in Algeria is the economic crisis. Concerning this matter we should talk about a basic issue pertaining to the independence of establishments: Where has this issue reached?

[Hamrouche] The independence of establishments which should have been completed with the start of 1989 has witnessed noticeable delay. The disorders of 1989 contributed to this delay. But now we are speeding up the implementation of reforms. [passage omitted] We are not going to ask establishments suffering from a financial deficit and overmanning to fire workers or close their doors. This is totally out of the question. But we will advise them to move gradually toward economic efficiency, economic yield, and changing methods of labor organization, because the present set up is totally unsuitable and irrational. It involves great loss, waste, and the squandering of efforts inside the establishment. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified man, in studio audience] Mr Prime Minister: There are at present in Algerian society those who ascribe the problem of unemployment to the issue of the employment of women. We see from this a number of excesses and we see that thereis the problem of violence which we have talked about before. What is the attitude of the government toward this, in view of the fact that in the field of economics and also in the field of violence, prevention is better than the cure? [passage omitted]

[Hamrouche] Violence is created by persons who have lost their positions and privileges which they previously used to enjoy, and they are trying to continue enjoying them secretly. I have already asserted that all people who believe in democracy and free political practice—those who believe in the people's right to exercise total freedom and who have agreed to exercise political activity in the open—take a clear position with regard to this issue. Violence is not coming from political movements. I am being clear here? Well, now that I have given you the opportunity to ask me questions about this topic let us expand on it. Who benefits from such an operation? Foremost are persons who have appointed themselves indirectly and secretly responsible for Algeria's foreign trade. Algeria's foreign trade is about 65 billion dinars. They have appointed themselves as a substitute system. I do not mean here the Trabandoer [black market] youth. I am talking about those who are behind the Tranbandoer. Those who have given themselves the right to collect the money of the Algerian emigrant workers in France which is estimated at Fr10 billion. Those are the ones who at this moment have no intention of accepting the new order. They are the ones who are prompting the society toward fear and anxiety, and therefore toward rejecting democracy and freedom.

Therefore, beware; beware of fear. We must not slip and accept fear. Everyone of us is responsible and should be ready to meet the challenge; we should rid ourselves of fear....

[Unidentified journalist, interrupting] Therefore, violence is also linked to economic factors?

[Hamrouche] Yes, violence is linked to economic factors and the economic situation.

[Mourad] As violence is linked to economic factors, let us remain with the subject of economy. Our collegue Amar Benhlima has a question of economy, specifically on the subject of trade unions.

[Benhlima] No, in fact I want to go back to the citizen's daily life, particularly, the situation of the market. Here we can see problems that are persistently apparent. We see whenever we go shopping that with the exception of one thing, potatoes, where government intervention has helped prices to stabilize, the price of everything else, fruits and vegetables, has gone throught the roof. The citizens here worry about the government's ability to correct the situation.

[Hamrouche] Thank you, Mr Benhlima, for your question which is linked to my previous answer. The economic side is linked to the social factors, to violence, and to political factors. We, the government, have implemented the first measure in the field on how to find market stability and organize the market. We have taken one commodity, potatoes, and tried to organize the market in this area. Surely experience has shown us the mechanisms that we have proposed and that we are going to implement on everything else are sound and useful and able to bring about stability to the market. As far as other commodities are concerned we have yet to apply our measures to them. We are still at the beginning, a matter that prompted those evil people, the bloodsuckers, to mobilize young people. It does matter. Well, as the occasion has arisen, let us beseech God's blessing for the souls of those who died, including the souls of the perpetrators, in Blida. We were answerable for their acts. All Algerians should feel that they are answerable for their acts, including those who preached to them and who encouraged them. They should be held answerable for the death of innocent people, youngsters who have yet to reach maturity. They were only 15 years old. Those youngsters were also deceived by the bloodsuckers, by those who plundered the money and now want to suck the blood of those youngsters, those marginalized youngsters. Therefore, the operation warrants that such mechanisms should be put into motion. Therefore, the aim of those people is to occupy the government with such things and thereby prevent it from carrying out

reforms; they are against such reforms and their implementation in the field. So they are trying to draw us to these battles, to violence, and to pay much attention to the strikes so that we might forget the implementation of the reforms in the field as well as preventing the managers from taking the reforms course. [passage omitted]

[Belhimer] I would like to go back to a sensitive point which cannot be avoided in the study of economic questions in our country, which is the issue of indebtedness. The criticism directed at all the governments in our country consists in the fact that the strategy for dealing with indebtedness is not known, or not clear, if it exists at all.

[Hamrouche] Naturally, there is a strategy to deal with indebtedness, this goes without saying, and does not require any proof. I have already mentioned in a previous press statement that indebtedness is a technical issue which cannot be discussed in the street. On this occasion I repeat it once more, and ask the brother journalists whether there is any Algerian journalist who is aware of the way the French indebtedness is dealt with, and how much it is? Or who is aware of the way the U.S. indebtedness is dealt with, and how much it is? Or who is aware of how any country's indebtedness, even in Third World countries, is dealt with and treated? This is among the secrets relating to the way foreign affairs are run, and these affairs require a kind of secretiveness in dealings. It is not a matter of figures. I have previously given all figures clearly in dinars, fully, not a single dinar more, not a single one less. This must be known by the people, because these are the commitments of the Algerian state, and every citizen must know the Algerian state's commitments toward the external world.

But, how do we negotiate on this indebtedness, raise the issue and talk with the banks to which we owe this money? I say that this cannot be disclosed or divulged. This is a matter between Algerian banks and the foreign banks to which we owe the money, because with every bank there is a kind of solution which does not agree with other solutions proposed by another bank. However, the thing that can be stressed so that there will not be any ambiguity is that the strategy of dealing with indebtedness does not belong to the framework of rescheduling debts. We refuse to reschedule debts, and refuse to resort to the IMF, because we are aware of the conditions of the World Bank, and we know the consequences it could lead to inside the country. We know how much we will lose of our free political decision, our free economic decision, and our free social decision. This is why we categorically refuse to enter into this logic, and this is why we chose a logic of our own.

The thing I would like to say to reassure our brothers the citizens and the audience is that the other parties whom we contacted and with whom we talked about this subject and the solutions we submitted, have fully responded. What is more, they encouraged us. Some told us that it is the first time that a third world country proposes solutions in such a way and with such wisdom, without jeopardizing its internal decision making or its external political decisionmaking. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] My question concerns the revival of investment. Among the things decided is to resort to joint ventures. Do you believe now in the light of the major changes being witnessed by the world, especially in the economic field and the openness of the economies of the socialist countries, that this venture is difficult in view of our economic situation which does not encourage the advent of foreign investment in our country?

[Hamrouche] I do not agree with the analysis in the question. Yes we are experiencing an economic crisis and we have a problem with foreign currency liquidity—but foreign sides know very well Algeria's economic capability. They know the qualifications of our cadres and know in some cases better than us the value of the existing factories and their production ability. They also know our proximity to Europe and the markets of raw materials and the availability of our country's energy, a matter which facilitates production at lower cost. Foreign investors find benefit in investing in Algeria. But of course this is not enough. Some may head for Western Europe for political or ideological reasons. I do not know. But we propose cooperation within the framework of mixed companies on a purely economic basis. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Peres Comments on Talks With Mubarak

TA2401160590 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Telephone interview with Shim'on Peres, Israeli vice prime minister and finance minister, by Uri Paz and Le'ora Lanir in Cairo—live]

[Text] [Paz] Good evening. What did you tell President Mubarak a few hours ago and what did he have to say to you?

[Peres] I told him that we are nearing the end of the race, that the pending obstacles can be overcome, and that it is desirable that the end of the race should also be the end of the process. I believe that the pending problems are such that solving them does not require great effort.

[Lanir] Did he agree with you?

[Peres] Certainly. He painted a very rosy picture of the situation in the Middle East and Israel under conditions of peace. He said he is waiting for peace and for Israel. He is determined to fulfill a role in keeping the process going and in implementing it.

[Lanir] Do you believe you will be able to form such good rapport with Prime Minister Shamir?

[Peres] We are all in the Israeli camp, and this government was established on the assumption that the main issue is the peace process. Therefore, there should be such an assumption.

[Paz] In your meeting with President Mubarak, did you raise the same ideas you worked out—according to reports—with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on the incorporation of deportees in the Palestinian delegation?

[Peres] I have said as clearly as possible that we are prepared to have two deportees in the Palestinian delegation, so there is nothing mystical about that.

[Lanir] But is the idea also acceptable to Mr Shamir?

[Peres] Ask him. We must differentiate between what has already been decided and what has not.

[Lanir] Does that mean that this proposal is your own, not the government's?

[Peres] Mr Shamir is a cabinet member and so am I; both of us have the same status. The situation is not—as you are trying to describe—that government policy consists only of Likud positions. Government policy is based on agreement between the two sides.

[Lanir] There is an impression that you are conscripting Mubarak in order to win Shamir over to your idea.

[Peres] So what? What is my plan? To convert Israelis to Christianity? I have an idea on how to advance peace. The efforts to further peace are all totally kosher. It does not require any justification.

[Paz] Were all those points acceptable to President Mubarak?

[Peres] I believe so, but I would like to say that some of the positions raised by Mr Shamir about Greater Israel are unacceptable to me and were not coordinated with me. So what? There are clearly differences between us.

[Lanir] Mr Peres, if the prime minister is not prepared to accept the proposals you presented to Mubarak, will that not result in the government's dissolution?

[Peres] That is not the problem. If Mr Shamir has better suggestions, that is fine. The problem is not whether the proposals are good, but whether peace exists.

[Lanir] But to get to the heart of the matter: You are presenting him with a certain scenario. If the prime minister rejects it...

[Peres, interrupting] If he suggests a better scenario, I would be only too happy to support it.

[Paz] And if he does not?

[Peres] Then what is the conclusion? That there is no peace plan?

[Paz] Will you then go to the Inner Cabinet...

[Peres, interrupting] If there is no peace plan, then there is no logical reason for upholding the government. We said that from the start; we are not saying anything new. The problem is not who has better proposals. I reiterate: The problem is how to continue the peace process.

[Lanir] Are you returning home encouraged?

[Peres] Very much so.

[Paz] Will you report to the prime minister this evening on what was achieved in Cairo?

[Peres] I do not know what time I will be returning this evening. We still have not completed the agenda. I will report to Inner Cabinet members and the prime minister.

[Lanir] Does Minister Rabin agree to the understandings you outlined here?

[Peres] Speaking in each other's name is not good, but I suppose it is acceptable to all Labor Party members that this government's life should last as long as the efforts to achieve peace. We did not join the government to get jobs; we came to advance the process. That is true of all of us.

[Paz] There are many reports about your coordinating with Defense Minister Rabin on the proposals you presented to President Mubarak. To what extent was there cooperation or coordination between you and Mr Rabin?

[Peres] Rabin and I are members of the same government. We are not pushing private ideas and not riding on a tandem bicycle. We represent a movement and we share the same ideological roots.

Holds News Conference

NC2401180090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jan (MENA)—Israeli Finance Minister Shim'on Peres held a news conference after his 2-hour meeting with President Husni Mubarak today. The 2-hour session included a 90-minute closed meeting with President Mubarak and another 30-minute meeting attended by Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni, Egypt's ambassador to Israel, and Dr Mustafa al-Fiqi, President Mubarak's secretary for information, who is responsible for following events. The Israelis were represented by Nimrod Novik, Shim'on Peres' political adviser; David Ginay, Peres' press adviser; Avi Gil, Peres' economic adviser; and Ehud Tolidano, Peres' adviser for Arab affairs [names and titles as received].

At the news conference, Peres announced that President Mubarak is playing a significant role in bringing the views of the various parties closer in order to bring about regional peace. He expressed the hope that peace will be established in the region's countries.

Peres noted that the future of the Middle East, like Europe, focuses on economic matters.

In his opening statement, Peres pointed out that his meeting with President Mubarak was "cordial, detailed, and constructive as far as the near future and its prospects are concerned."

As for the focal issue, Peres said that he had the impression that the remaining points of difference between the Israelis and the Palestinians can be resolved quickly and very soon. He asserted that the remaining obstacles can be overcome and that certain new ideas had been discussed for that purpose.

Peres did not rule out the possibility of providing a real opportunity for a meeting in Cairo between Israeli and Palestinian delegations to discuss elections and to initiate significant negotiations between the two sides.

Peres continued: I would like to repeat my appreciation for the role being played by President Husni Mubarak to bring views closer and thus contribute considerably to the peace process.

On the topics discussed with President Mubarak today, Peres said: We discussed relations with our neighbors. He also said: During the talks, I reiterated what I view as Israel's policy of seeking comprehensive peace and viewing dialogue with the Palestinians as the first step in serving peace. Our major goal is to establish peace with all our neighbors, he said.

In this regard, Peres asserted that this goal is now closer than ever.

Shim'on Peres expressed his belief that the future of the Middle East region, similar to that of Europe, lies in the economic field. He underlined the importance of the economic role in the present age.

Peres pointed out that during their talks today President Mubarak specified a number of concepts on future economic action in the Middle East.

He concluded his opening statement by saying: I thanked President Mubarak in particular for resolving the issue of the Jewish cemetery in Cairo. This is a significant service to religious people in Israel. I also thanked President Mubarak for helping Egyptian-Israeli relations to develop. He remarked that 100,000 Israeli tourists have visited Egypt so far and that Israel is buying Egyptian oil. Initial steps have been taken in the course of developing agricultural cooperation, and they are only the beginning, he said.

He then said: I will return from this visit with meaningful messages.

Having finished his opening statement, Peres began to respond to questions by Egyptian and foreign reporters and news correspondents.

Responding to a question on the formation of the Palestinian delegation, Peres said: I do want want to get into details. However, he added, this delegation can be formed in a manner which serves the Palestinian cause without embarrassing any other party. He noted that certain ideas have been proposed to resolve the remaining differences in this connection.

He pointed to the issue of the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue agenda by saying: When we arrive at the focal issue of the agenda, which is the elections, opening speeches will be a secondary issue. It does not make any difference if we have one or more opening speeches because these speeches have a specific role in making history at such times.

Shim'on Peres stressed that there is no time to waste, noting that the final point will be who will announce the names of those in the delegations. He continued: Naturally, the Palestinians will announce the names of their delegation members, and we will announce ours. I believe that with a little effort and skill all technical obstacles can be overcome. He expressed his optimism in this regard.

As for the nature of the Palestinian delegation, Peres expressed the belief that the members of the Palestinian delegation are free to consult with whomever they wish, because this does not concern the Israelis. He also said: I believe that if we view matters objectively, we will find that there is no time to waste because this is an opportunity we should not miss.

In this regard, he pointed to a growing drive for peace in the Middle East. He also quoted President Mubarak's assertion that everyone needs peace and that wars, violence, and aggressions are now things of the past. Today's world is one of peaceful relations, the president said. We have to go from the past to the present for the sake of our people, and the sooner we do this the better, Peres said.

Asked about the authority that the Israeli Cabinet granted him on his current visit to Egypt, Peres said: I am part of the Israeli Cabinet, and I have my prerogatives. The Israeli Cabinet comprises two parties, Likud and Labor, and I am chairman of one, he added.

Peres also said that the Israeli Government has one policy on both the elections and the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo, making his prerogatives very clear.

Responding to another question on his views of the Palestinian delegation, he said the Labor Party's stand is that we do not object to the participation of the two Palestinians who left Palestinian lands [as received]. Peres continued: I am certain President Mubarak and the Egyptian Government are fully aware of the Labor Party's stand on this issue.

Peres stressed that the Palestinian delegation must incorporate non-PLO members who represent the Palestinian territories.

When asked whether he agrees to the PLO's announcing the names of the Palestinian delegation, he said the delegation must represent the Palestinians who reside in Palestinian territories, not the PLO.

Peres expressed his deep regret at what is happening to Palestinians in the territories, noting that the only way to end the rule of the rifle is to submit to the will of the majority. He said Palestinians must choose their own representatives so they and their representatives will not be controlled by others. He added: We will not interfere in the elections because we are talking about free political elections.

Asked whether he accepts UN-supervised elections, he said: Supervision by the international mass media is enough, and it is the best international supervision. He emphasized that he favors free elections.

Peres was asked to comment on news agency reports that Egypt and the Palestinians have agreed to give the United States the names of the Palestinians' representatives and that the United States will later pass the names to the Tabah arbiters who will announce them. He said: You read something that I did not; I do not want to get into technical details. Peres repeatedly refrained from stating who will announce the names of the Palestinian delegation.

Asked if other Arab countries are invited to take part in the peace dialogue, Peres said: "Yes, they are invited." Peres expressed his belief that through peace much regional spending on the arms race could be saved.

Peres was then asked if he and President Mubarak had discussed the resumption of Egyptian-Syrian ties. He replied: "Yes, I raised this topic with President Mubarak and told him clearly I believe it is a positive step."

In response to another question on whether Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is optimistic, Peres said: I hope Shamir is more optimistic than I am. Peres added: "Why should only I be optimistic?"

Asked whether he and President Mubarak had discussed the possible cut in U.S aid to regional countries, Peres said: "We talked about it in brief, and I told him that if the United States wants to provide greater assistance to Eastern Europe, it has to spend less in Western Europe."

Peres was then asked if John Garang, leader of the rebel movement in southern Sudan, had visited Israel recently. Peres told the reporter who asked this question: "You asked the wrong person the wrong question at an inappropriate time." Peres then added: "There are many unfounded rumors regarding Israel and Ethiopia and Israel and Sudan. We have problems of our own and will not get involved in other problems."

At the conclusion of the news conference, a reporter asked Shim'on Peres whether his party has a great chance in the Israeli political arena. Peres said: My party certainly has a great future.

Ends Visit, Departs 24 Jan

NC2401231890 Cairo MENA in English 2225 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, Jan 24—(MENA)—Israeli Finance Minister Shim'on Peres, who is doubling as Labor Party chairman, left here tonight at the end of a brief one-day visit during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak. Deputy Premier and Planning Minister Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri saw him off at the airport.

Iraqi Information Minister Meets With Mubarak

NC2301235690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1401 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a private message from the Iraqi president. Latif Nusayyif Jasim, Iraqi minister of culture and information, conveyed the message during his meeting with President Mubarak this afternoon. The Iraqi minister arrived in Cairo earlier today as personal envoy of President Saddam Husayn and went directly from the airport to see President Mubarak.

Comments on Peace Initiative

JN2401135890 Baghdad INA in English 1130 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, Jan 24, INA—Iraqi Information and Culture Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has called on Iran to accept Iraq's new peace initiative for setting a ground for just, permanent and comprehensive peace between Iraq and Iran.

Mr Jasim said, in press remarks here today, that the Iranians had to benefit from the current opportunity and assent to the Iraqi overture, due to implement under the United Nations aegis and in concert with U.N. Security Council Resolution 598. Moreover, he said, the new initiative covered most of the overtures forwarded by Iraq since 1980 in addition to U.N. Resolutions concerning the Iraq-Iran war.

The Iraqi official described Iran's attitude versus Iraq's initiative as confirming its expansionist and aggressive policy, stressing that Iraq would keep on its peaceful and principled approach and would continue pressure on Iran with its overtures until peace and stability were spreading over the region.

Ends 2-Day Visit

NC2401230590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1825 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 24 Jan (MENA)—Latif Nusayyif Jasim, Iraqi minister of culture and information, left Cairo this evening for home after a 2-day visit to Egypt. While here, he conveyed a message to President Husni Mubarak from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Comments on Asyut Incidents

NC2401211890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1455 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jan (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has affirmed that the police apparatus always abides by the law. He asserted that any violation of the law would be confronted resolutely to safeguard the homeland and the citizens' security.

Commenting on recent incidents in Asyut Governorate, Musa explained that the police only intervened when extremist groups came out of the mosque demonstrating and refused to respond to police calls. They started to open fire and throw stones at the police, he said.

Minister Musa explained that a resident of Manfalut, which is 40 km from Asyut, was killed. He asked why this person came all the way from his hometown to participate in an extremist demonstration.

The interior minister appealed to the public to cooperate with the security apparatus and refrain from violating the law. This way, security and stability can be maintained, and development can continue.

Libya

Airliner Detained, Searched in Frankfurt

LD2301214990 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 2107 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] An authoritative source at the General People's Committee for Transport and Maritime Transportation stated today that authorities at Frankfurt Airport have detained a Boeing 727 airliner belonging to the Libyan Arab Airlines which was on a scheduled flight, No 172, from Tripoli to Frankfurt.

The same source added that German special police [words indistinct], and prevented the director of the Libyan Arab Airlines at Frankfurt Airport from approaching the plane.

The police also arrested the crew, disembarked the passengers, and meticulously searched the plane. The police also carried out individual searches of each passenger, including the sick, women, and children. This illegal act has been taking place since 1540 up to this moment. The airport authorities have not divulged the reasons for this inhuman act, which contradicts the codes of civil aviation.

In addition, some passengers were being hit and subjected to humiliation. The plane and its crew are still being detained.

The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation summoned the ambassador of West Germany accredited to the Great Jamahiriyah and handed him a strongly worded memorandum of protest against t these oppressive measures and asked him to furnish cla larifications on this unjustified measure.

3 Crew Members Armed

LD2401094590 Hamburg DPA in German n 0844 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Frankfurt [no date as received] (DPA)—A Boeing 727 of the Libyan Arab Airlines Compa pany was surrounded by the Federal Border Protecti tion yesterday following its landing at Frankfurt's Rhein- -Main Airport and was searched on suspicion of having g weapons on board.

The Frankfurt state attorney announced ed today that weapons were found on three crew memb nbers, presumably security men accompanying the aircra raft. They did not have the required authorization for t the weapons. After the three were detained temporari rily, the pilot refused to take off without his compatriots ts.

The state attorney said he knew of no inci cidents during the aircraft search.

Captain Details Police Treatm ment

LD2401211490 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 191 915 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Tripoli, 24 Jan (JANA)—The ca aptain of the aircraft of the Libyan Arab Airline Compar any which was seized by the West German authorities ha as said that a number of armed West German police boarded the aircraft as soon as it landed at Frankfurt t Airport. The police prevented the crew from leaving the e aircraft and stopped members of the Libyan Arab Airlin ne Company's agency at the airport from boarding the airc rcraft, as is the custom. Muhammad al-Gharyani, the ca aptain of the aircraft, told JANA following the aircraft's s return today, that an officer told him that there were ord rders from the German authorities to search the plane without furnishing any reasons for doing so. He added d the German police ordered all cleaners who were cleani ning the plane to leave and asked the engineers who were c checking it to retire.

The aircraft captain pointed out that th the Frankfurt Airport authorities searched the passenger rs aboard the aircraft, most of whom were women, childr dren, and sick people, causing them immense trouble, and nd compelling them to wait long hours—a matter which h deteriorated the condition of the sick, and caused dis listress to the women and children.

The aircraft captain pointed out that the a authorities at Frankfurt Airport and the police forces the ere tried several times to delay fixing the time of t the aircraft's take-off without giving any convincing justi tification, and compelled the crew to stay inside the plane f for more than 5 hours. This matter contravenes aviation n regulations, makes the wait unbearable for the crew, and d jeopardizes their ability to fly the plane.

The aircraft captain expressed his great indignation at such treatment. He asserted that the treatment of the crew in such a manner was the first ever in its kind, in particular the wanton method used by the German police in searching me, the captain of the aircraft, and my colleague, who was asked to take off his shoes and which were scrupulously searched, affirming that such an experience will never be forgotten by the crew.

Libyan Arab citizen 'Ayshah Abu-al-Qasim Muhammad affirmed, on the other hand, that as soon as the plane landed, the passengers felt that the police forces were surrounding it. She added: After boarding the bus we had to wait more than 2 hours before the German police made us leave it in groups. Each group was surrounded by a group of policemen and each group was scrupulously searched for no apparent reason. She pointed out that she had been poorly treated. She was isolated for more than 4 hours, during which time she was questioned, searched, and her fingerprints taken, before she was allowed to return to the lounge without any food or drink until the aircraft's take-off the following day.

Morocco

King Hassan Interviewed Before Maghreb Summit

LD2401212990 Rabat MAP in English 1203 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Marrakech, Jan. 22. (MAP)—Setting up any grouping always imposes the choice between "taking for basis all that which unites or stopping at that which divides" King Hassan has stressed. In an interview to the TUNISIAN NEWS AGENCY (TAP), King Hassan said he believed it was "politically, morally and objectively preferable to have for basis that which unites", but that this did not mean "there is a magic wand to eliminate all points of divergence". [sentence as received]

However, King Hassan added, "in so far as the political will exists, all obstacles could be overcome and all problems resolved in a natural framework".

In this interview, granted on the eve of the second meeting of UMA's (Arab Maghreb Union) Presidency Council slated to open today [22 January] in Tunis, King Hassan spoke of what has been accomplished so far in the Maghreban edification process, what is yet to be done and the actions UMA should undertake to face future challenges, mainly that of the European unique market in 1993. Since February 1989, King Hassan is UMA's acting chairman. Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali will assume the chairmanship as of this month.

The balance sheet of what has been accomplished so far is "very positive", and one could distinguish "two complementary phases", King Hassan said.

The first was launched during the first Maghreban summit in Zeralda (Algeria, June, 1988) during which the Maghreban commissions convened, elaborated UMA's juridical framework and defined the joint action plan in various sectors.

The second phase started on February 17, 1989 with the creation of UMA (the Marrakech summit). It was marked by setting up the union's bodies stipulated by the Marrakech treaty, like the consultative council, the foreign ministers' council, the follow-up committee and the secretariat general.

The monarch noted in this respect that the intense Maghreban activities were held both at the level of governments and at that of the private sector and cultural associations.

To a question on a Maghreb without frontiers, King Hassan said "naturally", one of UMA's major objectives was to work "progressively" towards realizing "free movement of people, services, goods and capital within our grouping as is stipulated by Article II of the Marrakech treaty".

"Progressive action", the sovereign explained, "means we should take into account the objective factors, whether economic, human, security or other, in order to edify an Arab Maghreb without frontiers, on rigorously established basis, an accurate evaluation of possibilities offered and a realistic and constructive analysis".

As to measures to face challenges like the unique European market of 1993, King Hassan said "above all, we should bypass complexes towards the European unique market of 1993". He noted that "often, we are afraid of phantoms, dwell on the negative aspects and do not use all our potentials".

King Hassan emphasized that we should consider the European unique market "as an open space for reinforcing our presence, intensifying our exchanges and promoting our economies". In any case, King Hassan said, relations with the EEC are one of the major questions "we study thoroughly within our union" in order to guarantee "harmony and complementarity between these relations and our bilateral ties". He especially stressed in this regard "the particular importance for our countries" of the Maghreban community in Europe.

In conclusion, King Hassan said "given its geo-strategic position, human potential and economic possibilities, the Arab Maghreb Union is undoubtedly a respected interlocutor in the European Community's 'rapprochement policy'".

Sudan

SPLA Claims 30 Enemies Killed in Clash

EA2401175090 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Latuka 1120 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Southern Kurdufan—The [SPLA] Sudanese People's Liberation Army's combined forces of Volcano and

Ajabna task forces, under the command of Captain Yunus Abu and Kulang Mayen, has ambushed an enemy convoy coming from Kaduqli.

Many enemy soldiers were killed, and the following were destroyed: one howitzer mortar, number 250472, and one Unimog [Paimler Benz truck] vehicle, number 1500. Our forces captured many shells: Howitzer shells, 120-mm mortar shells, 82-mm, 81-mm shells, and RPG-7s. Thirty enemy soldiers were reported dead in this battle.

Khartoum Says Attack on Yei 'Repulsed'

EA2401173990 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1010 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Jan (SUNA)—A responsible source has assured SUNA that life in Juba the capital of Equatoria Region is quite normal.

He described the allegations of London Radio quoting the rebels' radio as no more than psychological warfare to cover the successive losses suffered by them on all fronts.

The source said that the evidence for this lies in the fact that the outlaws attempted yesterday to attack Yei, but our brave forces repulsed them.

Our forces also engaged the rebel forces at Lanya and inflicted heavy losses in lives on them. Our forces overwhelmed two ambushes and captured 23 guns and quantities of weapons and ammunition, forcing the rebel forces to flee, carrying some of their wounded with them.

The source added said that it was convinced that the outlaws' radio would continue to broadcast lies to affect the morale of the citizens in Juba. The Armed Forces announced yesterday that the shelling of Juba by the rebels from a distance of 28 km was answered, and that they then chased them and cleared them from the area.

Al-Bashir Tours Darfur Region, Meets Officials

EA2101193090 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, Revolution Command Council [RCC] chairman and premier, announced yesterday evening in the meeting he held with the popular committees for salvation, and the chiefs and civil servants in local administration in Darfur Region, that the revolution has inherited economic ruin, and that the fund establishments and Arab funds had halted funding various projects because of partisan policies.

His excellency said that the revolution has endeavored to persuade these establishments to continue their funding of projects and that the establishments had agreed to give funds. He pointed out that many establishments needed overhauling, and that was why the revolution had embarked on the rehabilitation of the Khartoum-Port Sudan road seeing that the road was the main [words indistinct] for transport in the country.

Lt Gen 'Umar al-Bashir stated that the revolution had earmarked three roads in the country as having priority in rehabilitation work. These are: the Khartoum-Atbara-(?Haiya) road, the al-Fashir-al-Nuhud road and the Kosti-Malakal road. He said that there was a great hope of linking Darfur with Libya through the Kufra road.

He announced that Sudanese deposits abroad are estimated to be in the region of $40 billion, and that this amount, if utilized, was enough to pay for Sudan's debt and solve her problem. [passage omitted]

The RCC chairman went on to speak about the problem of armed robbery in Darfur and reaffirmed the revolution's support for the security organs in the region, stating that the revolution would contact the Chadian Government and the opposition in order to solve their differences.

He gave an assurance on the formation of a committee comprised of the chiefs of the different tribes in the region to consider the granting of Sudanese nationality to citizens. His excellency added that nationality should not be granted to any person except with the consent of the committees and that the committees must also examine the nationality identification granted recently to some individuals in the region. [passage omitted]

Dr Faruq al-Bushra, minister of commerce, cooperation, and supply, also spoke at the meeting, announcing the establishment of the bureau for border trade in Darfur Region, which will be under the direct supervision of the governor. The bureau will arrange border trade with the neighboring countries. [passage omitted]

Urges Action Agaist Smugglers

EA2101173290 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC] chairman, has announced that the Darfur region's People's Committee for National Salvation has been given full powers and authority by the NSRCC to inspect commodity supplies and government administration and other executive organs in the region.

In a speech he delivered yesterday afternoon at a big public rally in al-Fashir town [in Darfur region] His Excellency called on the region's people's salvation committee to form investigation committees to ensure the distribution of commodity supplies to the citizens in the region. He reaffirmed that the revolution would purge the country of corrupt elements and those who handicap work. He said the revolution had voiced the slogan of 'Purging Before Reconstruction,' pointing out that the purging exercise in the region would include corrupt civil servants. He called on the region's inhabitants to fight smuggling, explaining that a large stockpile of sesame,

gum Arabic, and Sudanese groundnuts was being smuggled to neighboring states. He declared that any citizens reporting on these smuggled stockpiles would be awarded a percentage of the quantity he reported on.

Lt Gen 'Umar arrived in al-Fashir yesterday, acconpanied by staff Major General al-Tijani Adam al-Tahir, NSRCC member and political supervisor for Darfur Region, and Staff Major General Faysal 'Ali Abu-Salih, NSRCC member and interior minister, for a 5-day inspection tour to Darfur region.

He received an official public reception. He was received by Staff Major General Abu-al-Qasim Ibrahim Muhammad, the military governor of Darfur Region, members of the regional government, people's salvation committees, and a large number of citizens of Darfur Region.

Vows To Recapture Rebel-Held Area

EA2401180590 Khartoum SUNA in English 0907 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Nyala, Jan 24 (SUNA)—The Revolution Command Council Chairman Gen 'Umar al-Bashir arrived in Nyala town yesterday within his tour to Darfur region. Upon arrival, General al-Bashir was received by a huge group of Nyala people, who were shouting slogans confirming their firm support to the national salvation revolution.

Gen al-Bashir was accompanied by a delegation including the Command Council member and Darfur region's political supervisor, Maj-Gen al-Tijani Adam, the Command Council member, Interior Minister Maj-Gen Faysal 'Ali Abu-Salih, and Darfur military governor.

Gen al-Bashir said the revolution is currently drawing plans to enable every Sudanese to take part in decision-making.

Gen al-Bashir in a meeting he held here yesterday with the leaders of the popular committee has indicated that the government bestowed upon the popular committee legal jurisdictions to undertake their role in the society.

The revolution will work for eliminating armed robbery as well as the foreign presence in Darfur Region, he said. Gen al-Bashir also confirmed the revolution's readiness to recapture all the territories held by Garang's rebel movement.

Concludes Visit

EA2401214790 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Lieutenant Genenral 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the National Revolution Command Council [NSRCC] chairman, returned to Khartoum this evening from Nyala after a 5-day visit to Darfur during which he familiarized himself with the conditions of the citizens and discussed their problems on the ground. The visit included al-Junaynah and al-Fashir.

During the visit, his excellency met members of the people's committees and the native administration. He also met members of the public during the popular rallies.

He was received on arrival at the military airport, by Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy NSRCC chairman, a number of members of the RCC, ministers and senior government officials.

Iraqi Industry Experts on Week-Long Visit

EA2201115290 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] A delegation of Iraqi experts in industry and the military industries has arrived in the country with the aim of discussing with the Sudanese Industry Ministry the possibility of manufacturing paper from the sugar cane waste.

The delegation's visit will last a week, during which they will tour the sugar factories of Kinanah, 'Asalah, and Sannar and then hold discussions with officials in the country.

Delegation Returns From United Arab Emirates

EA2201131790 Khartoun SUNA in English 0908 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Khartoum, Jan 22 (SUNA)—The Revolution Command Council member, Col Salah al-Din Karrar, and energy minister, Eng 'Abd-al-Mun'im Khawjali, returned here yesterday, concluding a ten-day visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Speaking to SUNA upon arrival here, Col Karrar described the visit as successful.

He added that they had briefed the UAE officials on the situation in Sudan and they exchanged views with them on the issues concerning the two countries. He pointed out that the visit was a follow-up to recent visit by Gen al-Bashir to the UAE.

He pointed out that they got acquainted during the visit with UAE experience in the field of petroleum industry with a view that Sudan could benefit from this experience in the future.

Col Karrar indicated that their talks have also covered the issue of investment in Sudan. Invitations have been extended to UAE international investors conference in Sudan scheduled for next February, he concluded.

Tunisia

'Fundamentalists' Attack Governorate Building

LD2501011490 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] As the rescue operations continue in the regions affected by the floods, and as all the Tunisians are closing their ranks to face up to the situation as

demanded by the national solidarity duties, a group of approximately 800 extremist religious elements [anasir diniyyah muttarrifah] yesterday [24 January] morning attacked the building of the governorate in Sidi Bu-Zayd, throwing stones and raising slogans of explicit political dimensions which had nothing to do with the situation resulting from the floods, such as "The students are victims of the education policy", or "We sacrifice the blood and soul for the martyrs." Some of them deliberately stormed administrative offices threatening the governorate's secretary general and employees.

After setting a private car parked in the public road on fire, the group went to the residence of the governor shouting the same slogans and continuing to throw stones.

The security forces intervened and arrested six demonstrators inside the governor's residence. At that time another group of demonstrators returned to demonstrate again before the governorate's building. At that time, the members of the group were carrying the corpse of a young man—a victim of the floods—and shouting the same slogans. At the same time, others continued to throw stones, which injured a civil protection auxiliary. At the intervention of the security forces 20 others were arrested.

The preliminary investigations indicate that elements of extreme religious views are behind the organization and administration of these disturbances, which errupted while the regional authorities, with the governor at their forefront, were supervising the rescue operations at the municipality of Miknasi, where the situation demanded immediate intervention.

Hammadi Meets French Defense Minister in Paris

JN2401210890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2040 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Paris, 24 Jan (INA)—Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, met here today with Jean-Pierre Chevenement, French defense minister.

During the meeting, attended by the Iraqi ambassador in Paris, they discussed multifaceted bilateral ties and ways to develop them.

Information Minister Returns From Cairo Visit

JN2401204090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 24 Jan (INA)—Latif Nusayyif Jasim, envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to his brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of Egypt and culture and information minister, returned to Baghdad this evening.

The envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn conveyed a message from his excellency the president to his brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on current Arab and international affairs, fraternal bilateral ties, and ways to enhance them in the interest of the Arab nation's causes.

The culture and information minister informed INA that he discussed during his talks with Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif the aspects of bilateral information cooperation and ways to bolster it in the interest of the Arab nation's causes as well as the media's humanitarian and cultural role. [passage omitted]

Assembly Speaker Issues Messages on POW Issue

JN2401203590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jan (INA)—The National Assembly has asked all Arab and foreign parliament speakers to urge Iran to hasten finding a solution to the prisoners of war [POW's] and to secure their repatriation under the auspices of the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

In messages addressed to speakers of Arab and foreign parliaments today, National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih said speeding up efforts to reach a solution to the POW problem goes along with the provisions contained in President Saddam Husayn's initiative announced in his historic speech on the 69th anniversary of the establishment of the Iraqi Army. The provisions offer satisfactory and fair solutions to the Iraqi and Iranian peoples and reflect respect for sublime and noble human values and also for the values cherished in heavenly books.

The National Assembly speaker added: The world peoples bid farewell to the year 1989 while all peace-loving forces among them were raising the following question: For how long will the problem of the POW's remain unresolved because of Iran's stance, which still sees the POW issue as a trump card to be used for bargaining and realizing its fantasies and intentions?

Sa'di Mahdi Salih referred in his messages to the serious consequences entailed in Iran's continued and prolonged detention of the POW's despite the fact that hostilities have ceased and that Iran officially accepted this cessation of hostilities. He asserted that this constitutes a flagrant violation of all international charters, laws, and norms. He added that this also contravenes the injunctions contained in heavenly books, not to mention the fact that this continued detention of POW's also causes psychological and moral harm not only to the POW's but also to their families wracked with concern and fear over the unknown fate of their sons. This is so particularly considering the fact that these families are not aware of what has happened to their sons as a result of the inhuman and dreadful psychological and physical torture exercised by the Iranians

The National Assembly speaker indicated that the Iranian regime's practices against the Iraqi POW's have permanently disabled and caused the death of many under mysterious circumstances. He cited the example of the Iraqi POW's who were killed while they were behind bars in the Jorjan detention camp.

Salih indicated that the Iranian regime has also withheld information on many of the Iraqi POW's despite the fact that Iraq repeatedly asked Iran to provide clear information on them and also irrespective of Iraq's continued pleas, voiced by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, for resolving the POW issue immediately and comprehensively, for their repatriation, expediting the return of the sick POW's.

UN's General Slavko Jovic Arrives From Tehran

JN2401135690 Baghdad INA in English 1220 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 24, INA—Yugoslav General Slavko Jovic chairman of the UN Iraq-Iran Military Observers Group, arrived here today coming from Tehran.

General Slavko's visit falls within his shuttle tours between Baghdad and Tehran to supervise work of the international observers in Iraq and Iran.

UN Delegate on Statements by Iran's Velayati

JN2401194090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1815 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] The United Nations, 24 Jan (INA)—Iraq has accused Iran of failing to abandon its policy of interfering in the internal affairs of world states and undermining stability in the region.

This came in a message sent to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar by permanent Iraqi UN delegate

'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari. Text of the message was distributed here as an official document of the UN Security Council.

The Iraqi message said Iran should speak publicly on establishing peace and neighborly relations with Iraq, because this would help create a popular atmosphere for realizing peace and neighborly relations. This also would end its previous policy, which caused the war and posed threats to the region's security and stability.

The Iraqi message contained a text of the statements made 17 January by Iranian Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati at Tehran University to a number of traitors described by Tehran radio as "the Iraqi opposition."

The message indicated Velayati's statements reflect the real intentions of the Iranian Government, which has not relinquished its policy based on interfering in the internal affairs of world states. The message added these statements also run contrary to those made behind closed doors by Iranian officials during their deliberations with the UN secretary general, his personal representative, and the UN Security Council members—statements which said they desire peace and good, neighborly ties with Iraq.

The Iraqi message affirmed Velayati's statements provide further evidence corroborating Iraq's conclusions. Those conclusions are that Iran's acceptance of the Resolution No 598 was not prompted by deep convictions about attaining peace. Velayati is head of the Iranian delegation to peace negotiations. The message added the Iraqi conclusions also state this acceptance was a tactical stand taken by Iran because of its failed hostile and expansionist policy toward Iraq.

The message pointed out these hostile statements explain the real reasons why the Iranian Government reneged on its commitment to direct talks provided for in the 8 August 1988 agreement, which was the basis for declaring a cease-fire in the war.

The message said Velayati's statements also are indicative of the selective approach and deceptive, procrastinating, and prevaricating policy pursued by the Iranian Government regarding the peace process.

The Iraqi message reaffirmed the need to pay attention to the crux of the peace process and to gain common understanding of Resolution No 598's provisions and the measures and time required for its implementation in direct talks between the two sides under the auspices of the UN secretary general.

The message said emphasizing some details and minor issues eventually will consecrate the status of no war, no peace.

Turkey's Ozal on East Europe, Water Issue

TA2501090990 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 0530 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Excerpts] President Turgut Ozal has declared the events in Europe and the Soviet Union may have unpredictable consequences, and every country, including Turkey, should act carefully in the face of these fast-breaking changes.

Ozal, who is continuing his visit to the United States, left Philadelphia for Houston to undergo medical checkups. According to Turkish Radio and Television correspondents Mehmet Cemal Ciftciguzeli and Kandemir Alphan, before leaving Philadelphia the president attended a dinner hosted in his honor by the Foreign Relations Council. In a dinner speech, Ozal outlined Turkey's foreign and economic policies.

Ozal pointed out that geographically, Turkey occupies an important location and shares borders with some Soviet republics. The president remarked the recent events in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe could cause fast-breaking changes with unpredictable consequences. Ozal said: The United States, Turkey, other NATO countries, and everyone else must be careful in the face of problems which could be triggered by these fast-breaking developments.

Explaining the recent developments actually stem from economic difficulties in these countries, Ozal stressed free market economic policies are not implemented in the socialist countries where the recent events took place. The president noted this economic system has been applied in Turkey for the past 10 years with successful results. [passage omitted]

Referring to the Middle East problem, Ozal remarked the crisis in the region originates from a shortage of water rather than territorial disagreements. He declared Turkey has sufficient water to meet the needs of Middle Eastern countries, and it is considering transporting water to these countries in the future via pipelines. The president added Turkey adopts the principle of peace at home and in the world in its foreign policy and aims at conducting good relations with its neighbors.

Replying to reporters' questions, Ozal reiterated the incidents in Azerbaijan constitute an internal Soviet problem, and Turkey cannot interfere. A group of Armenians staged a protest against Turkey in front of Ozal's hotel before he departed for Houston.

Planes Return Safely After Raid East of Sidon

TA2501171490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Air Force planes this afternoon attacked a base belonging to the Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] terrorist organization 6 km east of Sidon. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman said all planes returned safely to base. The Abu-Nida' organization took responsibility for the killing of Colonel Yitzhaq Rahimov several days ago in the security zone.

Rabin Rejects Delegation Announcement by Uprising

TA2401200190 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin still believes the political process should be exhausted within the framework of the national unity government based on decisions taken by the Cabinet and the Inner Cabinet. Our correspondent in the Knesset Ya'aqov Ahime'ir reports sources close to the defense minister said questions Rabin posed to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker about including deportees in the Palestinian delegation had been submitted solely on Rabin's own volition, and therefore he had not been given any answers.

The defense minister rejects the concept of the international conference, as it is not included in the government's decisions. Rabin also categorically rejects the intifadah leadership announcing the names of the participants in the Palestinian delegation, because it is the defense minister himself who is combating the intifadah.

Peres, Rabin Preparing New Delegation Proposal

TA2401140090 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Jan 90 p A1

["Exclusive" report by correspondent to Cairo 'Aqiva Eldar, Gid'on Alon, and news agencies]

[Excerpt] Cairo—Vice Prime Minister and Finance Minister Shim'on Peres are preparing a proposal that would be acceptable to the United States, Egypt, and the Labor Party. This proposal then would be submitted to the Inner Cabinet for endorsement as soon as possible, with the assumption if it is rejected, Yitzhaq Rabin will support disbanding the government.

When Peres meets Egyptian President Husni Mubarak today at 1100, he will offer detailed suggestions for bridging the gaps on four issues:

—1) The Palestinian delegation would include two deportees who have not been involved in PLO activity. These deportees would be returned to Israel in preparation for the meeting of the delegations in Cairo.

—2) The delegation would include representatives of East Jerusalem Arabs. The representatives would be Arabs holding residential addresses outside Jerusalem city limits, and the invitations to the dialogue would be sent to these addresses.

—3) The heads of the delegations would be able to raise any issue in their opening speeches. Thereafter, the discussions would focus on preparations for the elections. The Palestinian delegation would promise not to present itself as a PLO representation throughout the course of the meeting.

—4) The intifadah leadership could announce the composition of the Palestinian delegation without declaring that it had been decided upon by the PLO.

These ideas were discussed during contacts with the United States, and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was informed during the talks he had in Washington if Egypt and the PLO were to accept these suggestions, the United States also would be willing to support them. Peres spoke with Rabin by phone from Cairo, and the two men coordinated positions on the issue. On Saturday, the eve of Peres' departure for Prague, they both met for a long time. Sources close to Peres said he was happy with the cooperation between the defense minister and himself, and assumed any Likud foiling of this move would lead Rabin to support dissolution of the government and to back efforts to establish a narrow-based government.

Inner Cabinet Agrees To Deportees' Participation

TA2501085590 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 25 Jan 90 pp 1, 4

[By Moti Bassok]

[Excerpt] There currently is an Inner Cabinet majority for including deportees in the Palestinian delegation for talks with Israel. There also is agreement regarding the identity of at least one of them: Fahd al-Qawasimi, the deported former mayor of Hebron [FBIS records indicate Fahd al-Qawasimi was assassinated in Amman in 1984]. The above was announced by very senior Inner Cabinet ministers yesterday after the forum's session. The ministers maintain the prime minister will be prepared to accept inclusion of two deportees in the delegation.

The ministers added a group of 10 deportees will be allowed to return to their homes, thereby making it easier for Shamir and some Likud ministers to swallow the idea of including them in the delegation. This lies within the defense minister's jurisdiction. It was noted when he was defense minister 8 years ago, Ari'el Sharon permitted several expelled leaders to return to their homes.

On the other hand, it was learned Shamir firmly objects to including East Jerusalem residents in the Palestinian delegation, and that he is prepared to go all the way on the matter, even if this involves a confrontation with the United States and disbandment of the government. On another contentious issue, namely who will announce

the Palestinian delegation's composition, it seems Shamir also ultimately will agree to let Egypt play that role.

Palestinian Delegates 'Must Accept' Peace Plan

TA2501125590 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] The Palestinian delegation to negotiations in Cairo must accept our peace plan so we can make joint progress on the elections idea, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told the speaker of the Venezuelan parliament.

Shamir said to achieve genuine democratic elections, we must make sure the preparatory dialogue between Israeli and Palestinian delegations occurs.

Referring to incorporation of East Jerusalem Arabs in the process, Shamir said Jerusalem is not up for discussion. We never will give up united Jerusalem as part of Greater Israel, the prime minister said.

No Territory Elections Without PLO 'Green Light'

TA2501121990 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Jan 90 p 1

[Report by Knesset correspondent Asher Wallfish]

[Text] "No Palestinian in the territories will talk to Israel about the peace process, and no elections will be conducted in the territories unless the Palestinian leadership there gets the green light from the PLO."

Deputy Finance Minister Yosi Beilin made this impromptu statement in the Knesset last night, at the conclusion of his reply to a motion for the agenda by Pinhas Goldstein (Likud).

Beilin said: "The PLO constitutes the dominant element among the Palestinians, a situation which nobody particularly likes, but which presumably nobody denies is a fact.

"When the coalition guidelines were drafted after the 1988 elections, it was clear to us that most of the Palestinians who would be selected to talk to us in the future would be supporters of the PLO or of Hamas (the Moslem fundamentalists). Despite the fact that our coalition guidelines rule out any negotiations with the PLO, we realized that any representatives of the Palestinians in the territories would not exactly qualify as delegates to a Zionist Congress," Beilin said.

"The government's commitment not to talk to the PLO meant that it had to seek another avenue leading to dialogue.

"After the U.S. failed to reach agreement with the PLO, Egypt entered the picture as a mediator between them. Egypt still fulfils the role of go-between," he said.

Peres Returns From Cairo Meeting, Comments

TA2501063090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Telephone interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister, by Shalom Qital—live]

[Excerpts] [Qital] Good morning, Mr Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] A very good morning.

[Qital] Welcome back.

[Peres] Thank you.

[Qital] The United States is not overly optimistic. What have you to say about that?

[Peres] I say we differ in our assessments. They have their opinions; I have mine. The optimism issue revolves around the time factor. In my opinion, all remaining problems can be solved within a short period, and I see no point in further foot-dragging. There are three or four questions still open; we all know precisely what they involve, because they can be defined. We either should say yes or no, thereby concluding the issue.

[Qital] There have been some unpleasant signals from the United States on the immigration issue. Several unidentified officials have said aid for the absorbing immigrants will not be forthcoming if we fail to promote the peace process.

[Peres] This particular threat does not sound plausible to me. We can try to convince each other; there is no need to threaten each other. I would like to add this: If we do not get aid, we will perform absorption on our own. I repeat: Peace and immigrant absorption are the Jewish nation's primary historical interests and Israel's urgent need. On this issue, we will not be dependent on any other party. We must make up our minds and stop all these vacillations. We must put an end to this heaping of more and more interpretations, which have not benefited us. There may be a majority in favor of my stance, then there may be a majority against it, but a democratic country must make an unequivocal decision.

[Qital] Yes, precisely. Before we wind up, I would like to ask one question about a matter pertaining to our democratic country: the narrow-based government. Is there or is there not such an option?

[Peres] People all along have been attributing this whole rigmarole about the narrow government to me. A narrow government is not part of my daily activities. All the talk about it merely is endless speculation offered by the press. In my opinion, ever since the establishment of the State of Israel, the Labor Party has had one single option: to form a coalition with the religious parties or the right-wing parties. We had a 29-year-long partnership with the religious parties, and in my opinion, we did an excellent service to the people of Israel. I believe nowadays, too, the religious parties—or most of them—have embraced the peace issue as their own. They are ready to

take any necessary steps to turn the peace issue into reality. There is no mystery in any of this; it all is open, and everyone knows what is going on.

We attempted to form a partnership with the Likud, and now we can review the balance sheet—not the Labor Party's, but the State of Israel's. For instance: I believe the exit from Lebanon is a profit; I believe disappearance of the Jordanian option is a loss. Right now, we are facing our most crucial problem: Is there or is there not a peace process? A peace process is not a game of musical chairs to determine who finally will get to form the government, nor is it a question of whether the unity government stands. For me, it is a vital question of survival.

Rabin Reiterates Support for Unity Government

TA2501100790 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this morning reiterated his objection to dissolution of the unity government. Addressing hawkish Labor Party Knesset members [MK's], Rabin said: As long as the peace process stands a chance, the government must not be dissolved. The peace process right now stands a chance. Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel has more details:

There are no differences of opinion between the defense minister and the hawkish Labor Party MK's: Shlomo Hilel, Shoshana Arbeli-Almozlino, Ra'anan Kohen, Gedalya Gal, Mikha Goldman, 'Edna Solodar, and Shim'on Shetrit.

The defense minister told the MK's his stance remains unchanged: As long as the peace process stands a chance, the government must continue functioning. At this point, the process stands a chance.

The MK's asked for Rabin's view of the international conference concept raised by Shim'on Peres. The defense minister replied the idea is unacceptable to him, but since he has not heard it from Peres himself, he knows nothing about it.

His opinion about including deportees in the Palestinian delegation is known to all; in addition, he objects to making use of intifadah leaflets to present the Palestinian nominees for the talks.

Yitzhaq Rabin tomorrow will meet with Shim'on Peres on the political process.

Arens Returns, Discusses Likud, Peace Talks

TA2401180190 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said he has no doubt Prime Minister Shamir will win the full confidence of the Likud Central Committee. Arens made these remarks upon returning from Spain. He added Spain and Portugal have established special committees to further economic cooperation with Israel. Our correspondent 'Ido Baum is in the studio with more details.

[Begin recording] [Baum] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's declaration he would resign if he fails to win the Likud Central Committee's vote of confidence is completely understandable to me. The prime minister cannot fulfill his duties without such trust. Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said upon returning from Spain that the constraints ministers pose no danger to Prime Minister Shamir.

[Arens] I do not believe there is any danger here, because I have no doubt Yitzhaq Shamir will win by a large majority at the Likud Central Committee convention. I think it is clear to everyone, however—to all Likud Central Committee members, to all Likud members in Israel, and to all Israeli citizens—that anyone serving as prime minister can fulfill his role only on the condition he enjoys the full confidence of his party's institutions.

[Baum] The foreign minister was asked to comment on reports Defense Minister Rabin had suggested to the United States the inclusion of two deportees in the Palestinian delegation to negotiations. Minister Arens said he saw no point in volunteering candidates for negotiations. He said we have not yet even reached the stage of proposing nominees for the talks. He stressed the correct procedures must be followed on this matter.

[Arens] When the time comes, we will have the capability of consolidating a position in the Cabinet, and afterward we will be able to submit this position to Mr Baker and the Egyptians.

[Baum] Addressing the possibility the EC may impose sanctions against Israel and refrain from signing new agreements with it, Arens said this would only harm efforts to further the peace process. As for the visit to Spain and Portugal, Arens said he discovered a basis for economic cooperation between us. He claimed it was an extremely beneficial visit. [end recording]

Shamir on Hastening Immigration of Azeri Jews

TA2301180590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Report by Avraham Ben-Melekh]

[Text] The Government of Israel has taken special measures to accelerate immigration of Azerbaijani Jews to Israel. This is what Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said today on this subject:

[Begin recording] We already have done certain things to get these Jews out of there faster. First of all, we made a special effort last week to make available to them an especially large number of letters of request [from Israeli nationals, which are needed when applying for a Soviet exit visa]. This was done to prevent possible bureaucratic difficulties when exiting. In addition, our people

in the Soviet Union have given them high priority in exit procedures. As a result, we already can see many Jews arriving from there. I hope we will see many more.

In addition, we are making diverse efforts in various parts of the world—I will avoid going into detail on this—to recruit all possible means of air travel available. [end recording]

Knesset Rejects Al-Husayni No-Confidence Motions

TA2401140690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] By a vote of 24 to 5, with 6 abstentions, the Knesset rejected three no-confidence motions in the government presented by HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality], the Progressive List for Peace, and the Arab Democratic Party.

Our Knesset correspondent Yo'el Nir reports representatives of the three parties that submitted the motions claimed Faysal al-Husayni was detained because the Israeli Government cannot accept Palestinian public figures who want to advance the dialogue between the two nations.

Police Affairs Minister Hayim Bar-Lev said in response he investigated and found there had been no political involvement in Al-Husayni's detention and release, and only professional elements decided on the matter based on professional considerations and after consulting with the state attorney.

Further Details on Weizman Probe Revealed

TA2301175890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Police Commissioner David Krauss said he and Deputy Commander Wilk, the Yarqon District commander, personally will interrogate Minister Weizman, considering the high confidentiality of the issues concerned. If questions arise, I will consult with the attorney general, he added. The commissioner said he believes the investigation will be brief. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports Commissioner Krauss made these remarks at a meeting with police affairs reporters.

The commissioner further said the possibility of summoning Dr Ahmad al-Tibi for questioning will be looked into. Dr al-Tibi was one of those mentioned in the complaints filed in connection with the Weizman affair.

The police commissioner announced he has ordered an investigation into the assault against Faysal al-Husayni that occurred in the courtroom. [In a related report, Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1705 GMT on 23 January adds: "When asked about the Faysal al-Husayni affair, the commissioner stressed the decision to detain, the interrogation itself, and the decision to release Al-Husayni all were made by the Shin Bet."]

As for the Sicarii case, several directions are being probed. He said he does not think the organization is nationwide in scope.

'Security Sources' Fear Husayn's Power Weakening

TA2501122990 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Jan 90 p 10

[Report by Joshua Brilliant]

[Excerpts] Israeli security sources investigating the shooting from Jordan Tuesday night in the direction of an IDF [Israeli Defence Forces] patrol near Hazeva, in the 'Arava, said that it may reflect a weakening of King Husayn's grip on power.

"I have a gut feeling such incidents indicate that the central government does not rule as effectively as it did in the past, that its control is not absolute," an Israeli defence official stated. However, there are no signs that the regime is in danger, he added.

The shots were the latest in a series of incidents along Israel's longest border, and, as in most of the incidents, no one was hurt.

IDF troops returned fire, searched the area for nearly two hours and by 10 p.m. decided that no one had tried to infiltrate the border and no damage had been caused.

O/C [Officer in Command] Southern Command Matan Vilna'i yesterday visited the scene to question the troops and established that the shots had come from an area being patrolled by a Jordanian Army unit. The bursts of fire suggested that the source might have been "military," an IDF source told THE JERUSALEM POST.

The IDF spokesman's announcement yesterday morning did not claim that the Jordanian troops had fired at the patrol. A well-placed source explained it was impossible to determine exactly where the shots had come from since noise carries at night and it is difficult to ascertain a source of fire. [passage omitted]

Jordanian troops found two rocket launchers during a search of the border, they added, without indicating when or where this happened.

One official said that, two months ago, Jordanian troops found three rockets that were about to be fired at Elat from al-'Aqabah. Amman plans to raise the matter with Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, who is due there next Monday.

An Israeli defence official suggested some of the incidents may have been accidental. But it was possible that Jordanian soldiers—in addition to the one who opened fire near Hammat Gader on January 7 and was killed—have been trying to kill Israelis, he said.

Jordanian accounts of the incidents have raised questions here. Someone must have carried the Katyushas a very long way before placing them near al-'Aqabah, and

the Jordanian security authorities might have been expected to identify hostile movements, Israeli observers argue.

150,000 Women Could Be Expelled From Territories

JN2301123490 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Jan 90 pp 1,3

[Special to the JORDAN TIMES by Sana' 'Atiyyah]

[Text] Amman—In the shadow of the uprising in the occupied territories, Israel has been quietly carrying out a discrete form of mass transfer of Palestinian women and children from the occupied territories since last June, according to official sources and independent observers.

Human rights organisations and Israeli and Palestinian press in the West Bank and Israel estimate the number of women and children already "expelled" at 500. All of the expelled women are of Jordanian nationality married to Palestinian men.

Although 500 does not seem to be a large number, the significance of these expulsions is great and dangerous, experts in Palestinian demography say. They estimate that if all non-Palestinian women living in the occupied territories without "qualifying for residence" are to be expelled the number could reach 150,000.

After the 1967 war, when Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the occupation forces adopted a policy of allowing wives of Palestinians to join their husbands and live in the occupied territories. According to experts on Palestine, family reunification rights granted by the occupation authorities lasted for only a few years. But wives stayed on and bore children without having residence permits which were not granted by the occupation authorities.

In mid-1988, halfway through the second year of the uprising, Israel launched a quiet campaign to expel these women, along with their children, according to independent observers who spoke to the JORDAN TIMES on condition of anonymity. Israel is denying residence rights to the women, and expelling them in violation of Geneva conventions which stipulate that an occupying power has no right to expel or deny entry to immediate members of families of residents of the occupied territories.

According to a report written by freelance journalist and peace activist Jerry Levin, Israeli civil rights attorney Lea Tsemel [name as published], who is involved in dozens of family reunification cases, was told by an Israeli official Israel had not realised how many people were coming into the territories until the beginning of the eighties.

"They (the occupation authorities) decided that they had been allowing too many family reunions, and that it was no longer in their interest to do that. From now, they said, they will only grant family reunions to those from whom they (the authorities) will benefit. And the supreme court agrees."

According to Levin, the move represents a turning point in Israel's occupation of Palestinian land since 1967. The aim of earlier expulsions after the war was almost always getting rid of Palestinian activists and leaders, Levin told the JORDAN TIMES in an interview in Amman.

"But the target of this new kind of expulsion has been mainly men, women and children whose lives have been anonymous and politically passive," Levin said.

"The motivation seems to be rooted more in sociology than in politics. The military seems to be trying to instill a kind of pervasive cultural debilitation by inducing excruciating emotional pain, economic disruption, and physical dislocation in the most elemental Palestinian institution—the tightly knit family unit," Levin writes in his report.

At first the expelled women were promised by the occupation authorities that they would be allowed to return if they obtain visiting permits. They obtained such permits but not a single woman who tried to return to the West Bank was able to enter, according to the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Occupied Homeland Office in Amman. All those who tried to return were turned back to Jordan by the Israeli border police at the King Husayn Bridge and blatantly told that they would never be allowed to enter the occupied territories again.

"After my husband got me a visiting permit after I was thrown out, I went to the bridge and was told by the officer that I was not allowed to enter ever again," Nahlah Ahmad from the West Bank town of 'Ararah told the JORDAN TIMES.

The methods used by the occupation authorities to expel the women are very discreet and away from publicity. According to Levin, soldiers equipped with machineguns check West Bank homes late at night and early in the morning to single out women without residence permits.

"Within minutes they are prodding frantic wives, infants, even four-day old babies, the very old, sick, infirm, and pregnant into commandeered taxicabs which are ordered to hustle the frightened passengers to the Jordan River crossing. There they are forced over the bridge into uncertain exile in Jordan," Levin wrote in a report to be distributed in the United States.

According to West Bank lawyer and human rights activist Jonathan Kuttab, "what happened in the past was that they (the occupation authorities) did not use to actually physically load (the people) on trucks and buses and taxis to the border. But now they are. It's a creeping form of forcible transfer that is already starting to take place."

PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad Milhim said this form of transfer was aimed at vacating

the land to make room for Jewish immigrants, especially from the Soviet Union, to settle on Arab land.

"The Israelis are trying to push the Palestinians into Jordan because they want to implement the theory that Jordan is Palestine, and to empty the land to leave room for Soviet Jews—something that His Majesty King Husayn recently warned about," Milhim told the JORDAN TIMES.

In an interview with the JORDAN TIMES last week, King Husayn said that the "daily Israeli practices against Palestinians in the occupied territories, the expulsion of Palestinians and the Israeli intention to settle the expected immigrants all fit into the same Israeli scheme that Jordan is the solution."

"Whom will these thousands of immigrants replace and what will happen to those who will be replaced by these new arrivals?" the king asked.

Kuttab, is quoted as saying in Levin's report that the "underlying reason for these transfers is purely ideological, based purely on race—the fact their mothers are not Jewish. The whole goal of setting up the state of Israel and its control in this area, of course, is to make it Jewish and to bring in as many Jews as possible from the Soviet Union and elsewhere, and to exclude or keep out the original non-Jewish Palestinian people as much as possible."

Tsemel agrees with the argument: "It is not just harassment and brutality. It is policy; it is transfer policy. They want to get them out. And if they can find a legal way, they will do it," she is quoted as saying in the same report.

All the expelled women carry temporary Jordanian passports and so many of them are in Jordan waiting to receive visiting permits and try to return to their husbands. In many cases their childrn were left behind when they were expelled.

In Levin's report, Tsemel says that the Israeli supreme court has been saying in recent years that if a Palestinian wants to live with his wife and children he is welcome to leave the occupied lands. "The court goes along with the authorities who say that it is Palestinian policy to overpopulate the West Bank and they must stop it," Tsemel says.

According to Levin, when they were forced to leave many women took their children with them who were listed on their fathers' identification document, which later enabled the children to return and live in the occupied territories.

One of the expelled women interviewed by Levin in Jordan said that the Israeli officer on the border had torn up her son's permit into little pieces with no explanation, denying the boy of the right to return to his hometown of Bayt 'Ur.

According to Levin, such an act is not merely aimed at humiliating and frustrating the people, but carries significance.

"This move is related to the land. In case of the father's death and the children are not there, they cannot inherit. In time, this would provide a vehicle for the Israelis to confiscate more Arab land," Levin explained.

According to Milhim, the expulsions are also aimed at curbing the uprising.

"The Palestinian men are asked to pay a price if they want the Israeli authorities to grant their wives and children residence permits," he said. "They are asked to lead the Israeli soldiers to where the intifada leaders and activists are hiding and collaborate with them if they want reunification rights. Obviously, the Arabs have proven their loyalty and patriotism to Palestine by accepting the greater price, which is expulsion," he said.

According to Nahlah, who was expelled from 'Ararah last August, the Israelis military governor bluntly told her husband to collaborate if he wanted her and his son to remain living in the town.

"The morning I was forced to leave, the military governor openly told my husband that the only chance we had to enable my son and I to stay was if he would collaborate with them and give them all the information he had about intifada activists. But naturally we refused. So they kicked me out," Nahlah said.

Kuttab believes that this method of transfer could escalate. He was quoted by Levin as saying that this phenomenon "is extremely frightening, not only because it potentially can affect tens of thousands of people, but also because it starts in a very subtle way."

"At this stage," Kuttab stated, "it is based on a technical ground: that these people do not have 100 per cent good solid Israeli documents. At a later stage it may apply to individuals who have been accused at one time or another of 'security' offences and who have been issued green ID cards as opposed to the orange ID cards that everybody else has. At a later stage it may apply to entire villages or to entire areas which are viewed as hostile to the occupation, or problematic, or a 'security' threat."

Defense Establishment Reacts to VOA Station

TA2401151890 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Jan 90 p A5

[By environment correspondent Eli El'ad]

[Excerpt] The defense establishment has announced construction of Voice of America [VOA] transmitters near Hazeva in the 'Arava might harm intelligence work and flight safety.

These points are in a position paper the Defense Ministry and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] presented yesterday to the National Council for Planning and

Building subcommittee on planning strategy. The council, which is the supreme planning body in the country, asked the committee to study the preparations for the VOA station's blueprints and to present it with its recommendations. This is the first time the defense establishment has set out in a written document its detailed views on the VOA transmitters. The document said the move would require the existing training site—the "90-north" firing range—which today serves the Air Force, to be moved southward. It also would call for closing off areas which up to now were not used as training sites. These involve some 100,000 dunams around the Marzeva and Naqarot Rivers, which are popular with hikers because they include a series of nature sites. The Nature Reserve Society, 'Arava settlements, and Mizpe Ramon also sharply oppose converting these areas into firing ranges.

Following presentation of the document, the subcommittee decided yesterday to reexamine the station's repercussions on the area to take into account the IDF's demands. The immediate result of this decision is several months' delay in the timetable of the talks on setting up the station. [passage omitted]

Official Soviet Economic Team Arrives 25 Jan

TA2501161490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] An official economic delegation from the USSR arrived this afternoon in Israel. It is headed by the deputy head of the national planning council of the Russian Federation. Our correspondent Ya'aqov Balselboim reports the delegation will remain 5 days in Israel, visiting various plants and preparing Minister Peres' visit to Moscow.

Bulgaria for Talks on Full Diplomatic Relations

TA2401142790 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 24 Jan 90 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] The Bulgarian Government has asked Israel to send representatives to Sofia to launch talks on establishing full diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The request was submitted to Yohanan Bein, Israel's deputy permanent UN representative, by the Bulgarian ambassador to the organization.

The Bulgarian ambassador to the United Nations said his country is interested in normalizing relations with Israel and that ways to begin the talks would be formulated within several days.

USSR Commerce Bureau To Open 'in 2 Months'

TA2301153690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] The USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry in 2 months will open a representation in Tel Aviv, while the Israeli Union of Chambers of Commerce will open a representation in Moscow by the beginning of April. Our correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports the presidents of the Soviet and Israeli chambers of commerce this afternoon cosigned an agreement to this in Moscow.

Defense Ministry Orders Halt to Hamas Contacts

TA1501092890 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Jan 90 p A3

[By Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] The Defense Ministry has ordered the Civil Administration's senior officials in the territories to immediately cut off all contact with public figures identified with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], HA'ARETZ has learned from senior defense sources.

The order, transmitted to Civil Administration heads via Shmu'el Goren, the coordinator of government activities in the territories, has aroused anger in the Civil Administration. Defense sources told HA'ARETZ the order was aimed at preventing the legitimization of Hamas, an extremist Islamic movement, in the wake of the meetings conducted in recent weeks between Civil Administration senior officials and senior figures in the territories identified with Hamas.

The sources also reported the defense establishment and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] are concerned about the organization's increasing strength, since Hamas is becoming a much more popular movement, and many former PLO supporters in the territories are transferring their support to it. Military sources are concerned the PLO and Hamas are growing closer. [passage omitted]

One of the most recent meetings, which aroused anger in the Defense Ministry, was between Brigadier General Arye Ramot, the Gaza Strip Civil Administration head, and Dr Mahmud 'Azar, considered an Hamas leader in the region. The administration head asked Dr Azar whether Hamas is prepared to agree to elections and about the organization's moods following the detention of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin.

Flight Agreement Signed With Czechoslovakia

TA1501123290 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Jan 90 p 1

[Text] El Al has signed an agreement with CSI, the national airline of Czechoslovakia, to begin regular flights between the two countries starting this summer, according to Civil Aviation Administration director Shay Shohami.

Shohami told Transport Minister Moshe Qatzav that according to the agreement, signed last week in Prague, all technical accords necessary to get the flights underway by the summer are to be concluded by the end of this month.

The Transport Ministry, which announced the agreement yesterday, said it was Qatzav's policy to open aviation ties with the countries of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union to facilitate increased tourism to Israel.

Official Denies Israeli Border Shooting Incident

JN2501081690 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25-26 Jan 90 p 1

[By staff reporter Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—A senior Jordanian official Wednesday denied Israeli reports of shooting across the demarcation line Tuesday night and said that there was no shooting from the Jordanian side.

The official, who did not wish to be identified, told the JORDAN TIMES that "no shooting took place from this side of the border. This is for sure."

Reports from Israel claimed that shooting was heard near a settlement called Hazeva across the demarcation line around 8 p.m. Tuesday but that there were no signs of any "infiltration."

"These Israeli reports are totally without substance and they only show Israel's insistence on creating tension across the borders," the Jordanian official said. "They are meant as a form of pressure on Jordan," he added.

Meanwhile a Jordanian military source denied reports that two Soviet-made rocket launchers were found during a search of the Jordanian side of the demarcation line.

According to the source, quoted by the ASSOCIATED PRESS, the Jordanian army "has not found anything and these are only media reports."

Earlier reports quoted unidentified government sources as saying that the Jordanian army found the rocket launchers on the Jordanian side of the demarcation line but they did not say exactly when or where the rockets had been found.

Jordan Not PLO 'Alternative' in Peace Talks

JN2501093090 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Jan 90 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "A Rejected Call and Exposed Bargain"]

[Text] Peres yesterday affirmed Israel is not ready to conduct negotiations with PLO representatives and again called on Jordan and Syria to sit with Israeli representatives in peace talks. He also claimed "the democracy" that must prevail in the peace process only can be achieved if the Palestinians relinquish the PLO—a step similar to those taken by the Eastern European peoples in their democratic march to release their regimes and leaderships.

Peres' call and claim clearly and firmly indicate Israel's hostile strategy toward the peace process, based on aborting it, is firm; it has not changed. Peres knows full well Jordan does not accept becoming an alternative to or a representative of the PLO in any peace talks. He knows—as others do—that Jordan's decision of disengagement with the West Bank was aimed at enabling the PLO to participate in the talks, because it is the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The decision also aimed at underscoring the independent Palestinian identity through the PLO. The undisputable outcome is Jordan adheres to its principled pan-Arab stand and will not go back on it whatsoever.

Peres's claim that democracy only can be achieved if the Palestinians relinquish the PLO calls for derision. This claim constitutes illegitimate and undemocratic interference in Palestinian affairs. The strange paradox is that while Peres was instigating the Palestinian people against their sole, legitimate representative, the PLO, under the pretext of democracy the results of the latest opinion poll conducted in Israel by two Tel Aviv University professors announced yesterday indicate approximately half of all Israelis support an unelected, strong authority to restore security in Israel.

It would have been better for Peres to conclude from these results that approximately half the Israeli people are opposed to the democracy of which Israel has boasted. He must, therefore, direct his advice on democracy to the Israelis, not the Palestinian people whose commitment to democracy does not contradict their adherence to their sole, legitimate representative, the PLO.

Peres' lies will not succeed in hiding what is demonstrated by Israel's resistance of the peace process and its exposed one-upmanship in democracy. Jordan will remain in all cases a pan-Arab bastion defending the Palestinian people's right to regain their occupied territory, establish a just peace on their land, and exercise their national rights on its soil. Jordan will continue to adhere to its principled stand, whose purport is not to become an alternative to or representative of the PLO in any peace talks.

USSR Imposes Hard Currency Fees on Students

JN2001124690 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Jan pp 1, 22

[By Jamal al-'Alawi]

[Text] The Jordanian Government has received a draft protocol for cooperation in educational fields between the Ministry of Higher Education and the USSR State Committee for Public Education.

For the first time in the history of educational cooperation between the two countries, the proposed protocol demands tuition fees be paid in hard currency for Jordanian students at Soviet universities.

According to the draft protocol, the charges to be paid by the Jordanian Government will be as follows:

—Humanities and educational specializations: $2,500 for each student per annum.

—Economic and agricultural specializations: $3,000 for each student per annum.

—Engineering, technological engineering, international relations, international law, international economic relations, automation, administration systems, and agricultural engineering specializations: $4,000 for each student per annum.
—Medicine, computer, and electrical systems, networks, accumulators, and conductors specializations, as well as fine arts: $5,000 for each student per annum.
—Natural sciences specializations: $3,500 for each student per annum.
—Studying for 1 year at the preparatory studies colleges and departments: $2,500 for each student per annum.

The draft protocol sets the condition payment be made at the end of the year, by 1 September each year.

The draft protocol also asks Jordan submit all documents for higher education candidates no later than 15 May, and that students join the higher education institutions to which they are admitted before 1 September of each year.

Committee Cuts Draft Budget by JD15 Million

JN2201080790 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Jan 90 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The Lower House of Parliment's Financial Committee has finalised discussion on the 1990 national budget and has succeeded, through consultations with leading economists and deliberations, in reducing the total envisaged expenditures by JD15 million, committee Chairman 'Abdallah al-Nasur said Sunday [21 January].

Speaking after a five-hour committee meeting attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Lower House Speaker Sulayman 'Arar, al-Nasur said a full report on the subject would be submitted to a full House session Saturday.

Commenting on the session Badran said all aspects pertaining to the fiscal budget were discussed in a "manner that can best manifest close cooperation between the government and the House."

"The government will now abide by the points agreed on with the deputies concerning the budget for 1990 and will implement all possible changes to meet the requirements," the prime minister stressed.

According to the draft budget, presented by Finance Minister Basil Jardanah to the Lower House earlier this month, the total expenditure was estimated at JD1.105 billion and projected revenues JD906.7 million with a deficit of JD199 million.

Al-Nasur said in his statement quoted by the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY, PETRA, that the committee recommended that the fiscal budget should detail the functions and operations of semi-independent institutions whose total budget amounts to JD 600 million for 1990.

Al-Nasur said issues that were discussed by the committee Sunday included unemployment and the steep rise in prices in Jordan.

"The committee questioned the government about its plans to deal with the problem of unemployment and what short- and long-term strategies would be adopted and what projects would be implemented to help contain this problem," al-Nasur said.

He said the question of soaring prices was discussed and the committee was in the process of adopting a series of economic measures which still need to be discussed by Parliament.

In another development, the House's administrative committee held a meeting Sunday with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim who was questioned about Foreign Ministry officials who had been transferred to other government departments or retired on pension.

Al-Qasim presented a statement justifying the action, which, he said, was based on ministry regulations. He said there was no injustice done to any of the affected employees but they can raise the matter in court if they were not satisfied by the ministry's action.

According to the committee's chairman, Jamal al-Khurayshah, the committee will prepare a report on the situation to be submitted to the House.

Members of the House's Administrative Committee charged with dealing with the public complaints met Sunday with members of the executive council of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce and a group of Jordanian merchants to discuss soaring prices of goods.

Al-Khurayshah said the government subsidizes part of the basic commodities but most people are critical of the "excessive profits" made by merchants on different commodities.

"While merchants continue to deny that they were selling at unjustifiably high prices, all indications point to the fact that prices are going up all the time and the rates of increases are incompatible with the degree of the financial crisis Jordan is facing at the moment," committee member Deputy Ahmad al-Abbadi said at the meeting.

He said: "If this trend continues the poverty line in Jordan will reach 80 per cent of the population. "No solutions can be found without probing the questions of salaries, unemployment and prices in general." Al-Abbadi called for the formation of a joint committee grouping merchants and the government to study "real causes behind the soaring prices and offer solutions."

The federation Chairman Muhammad 'Asfur told the meeting that the depletion of the treasury's foreign

currency reserves led to a devaluation of the dinar's value which subsequently resulted in the price increases of imported goods.

Asfur pointed out that the business sector in Jordan contributes 17 per cent of the gross national product (GNP), provides employment for 10 per cent of the total workforce and pays duty on imported goods and taxes estimated at eight per cent of the GNP, representing nearly 52 per cent of the total taxes collected in the country, and provides 25 per cent of total local revenues.

He called on the government to float prices and to allow merchants to make at least 22 per cent profit.

At the end of the meeting agreement was reached on the formation of a committee from both sides to present a detailed study to the Lower House on possible solutions.

Slashes Another JD5 Million

JN2401101890 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Jan 90 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The Lower House of Parliament's Financial Committee, which is currently reviewing the 1990 draft budget, has managed to reduce the total amount of envisaged expenditure for the year by JD (Jordanian dinars) 20 million, the committee's chairman said Tuesday.

Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nasur, a deputy from the al-Balqa' governorate and former planning minister who heads the panel, told Jordan Television that the committee, which earlier reduced the proposed JD1.105 billion budget by JD15 million has reduced it another JD5 million.

Al-Nasur said that the committee would submit a detailed report to a full House session later this week.

He said that the final session of the panel held Tuesday heard the views of heads of several government departments on questions related to the budget and on ways of handling unemployment, the rising cost of living and other related issues.

Attending the meeting were the ministers of education and higher education, energy and natural resources and water and irrigation and the Public Security Department director.

Israeli Warplanes Bomb Palestinian Positions

NC2501143190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1421 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] It has transpired that the air raid that was launched by Israeli warplanes at 1605 today targeted Palestinian positions east of Sidon, specifically in the Majdalyun area.

5 Wounded in Israeli Raid

NC2501180290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] According to AFP, Israeli aircraft carried out a raid at 1600 today against Palestinian positions in the south. The raid took place in a sector about 5 km north of Sidon, on the Kafr Falus front. REUTER said that 2 Israeli aircraft raided Palestinian positions in the Majdalyun area. The agency added that two other aircraft flew to protect the 2 raiding aircraft, which attacked positions belonging to the Fatah Movement—The Revolutionary Council led by Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna]. Security sources said that 5 people were wounded in the raid, which also destroyed a house. Columns of smoke were clearly visible in Sidon. Ambulances rushed to evacuate the casualties.

Palestinian military sources said that this afternoon Israeli aircraft destroyed two Palestinian positions in southern Lebanon. The sources added that two Israeli aircraft raided a position of the Fatah Movement—the Revolutionary Council and another position of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The sources noted that there were casualties but did not give any details.

Israeli Tank Reportedly Hits Mine in South

NC2501154290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Citing a security source in south Lebanon, AFP reports that an Israeli Merkava tank struck a landmine on the Bra'shit-Bayt Yahun road in the western sector of the security zone at 1300 today. The source has not given any information on the fate of the tank's 9 crew members.

Israeli Shelling, Amal Operation in South Reported

NC2401202690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Last night and this morning the occupation forces and their agents shelled some areas in Western al-Biqa', causing heavy material damage. Our correspondent in Western al-Biqa' reports that at 2030 yesterday, the Jabbur and Jabal Abu Rashid areas were shelled from tanks positioned in al-Ahmadiyah. Five shells fell in the two areas. At 2100 the shelling was directed at Tall al-Sultanah and the surrounding forest, where 3 shells fell. At 2300, 3 shells fell in the area of Maydun. Flares were also fired over al-Surayri and Maydun. At 0200 today, the occupation forces fired five flares over Qilyah and al-Dallafah. This was accompanied by bursts of machinegun fire directed at the areas of Jisr al-Dallafah and the surrounding forest. At 0320, 8 artillery shells were directed at the al-Litani River basin. Three of these shells fell near the electricity generators in Markabah.

Security sources in Western al-Biqa' said that the artillery shelling caused material damage. The sources added that the shelling took place amid intensive Israeli military movements in the Western al-Biqa' area. A number of Israeli armored vehicles have reportedly been deployed in forward positions of the agent militia in Taw'amat Niha, the Burghuz triangle, and the approaches to Kafr Hunah.

The National News Agency correspondent in Hasbayya has reported that early this morning the agent militia's artillery intermittently shelled the areas of al-Dahr hills, Mimis, and the ('Ayn Bushur) farms from their positions in Wadi Abu Qamhah, causing material damage. Israeli helicopters also flew over the al-'Urqub and Marj 'Uyun areas. Intensive movements by Israeli mechanized patrols were observed moving along the Metulla-al-Dardarah-al-Khiyam-Hasbani Bridge-al-Ahmadiyah hills line.

Meanwhile, the Amal Movement's operations room in the south has announced that yesterday an Amal Movement group detonated an explosive charge near an Israeli intelligence service vehicle on the road leading to the (al-Jamusah) position. The vehicle was totally destroyed, and all its passengers were killed. Subsequently, Israeli reinforcements were brought into the area. Helicopters raked the area with machineguns.

Amal-Hizballah Fighting Resumes 25 Jan

NC2501085890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Clashes between Amal and Hizballah gunmen resumed along the Iqlim al-Tuffah combat lines today. Rockets and machineguns are being used in the fighting between the two sides. One person was killed and 10 injured in the heavy fighting between the Amal Movement and Hizballah yesterday.

More on Shiite Clashes; Overflights

NC2501103890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] The fighting between the Amal Movement and Hizballah along the combat lines of Kafr Milki, Kafr Hatta, and Jarju' in Iqlim al-Tuffah became fiercer at 1030 today. Medium-caliber weapons, rockets, and artillery are being used in the clashes.

In another development, three Israeli warplanes reconnoitered the Palestinian camps and areas east of Sidon.

Government Requests Expulsion of Envoy to U.S.

NC2501084590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] The Lebanese Government addressed two memorandums to the U.S. Administration yesterday. The first requests the lifting of diplomatic immunity on the Lebanese Embassy in Washington in order that the U.S. authorities may enter the embassy and oust former ambassador 'Abdallah Abu-Habib, who refuses to give up his post and hand over the embassy's papers, documents, and accounts. The second memorandum refers to the appointment of Bassam Nu'mani, the embassy's first secretary, as charge d'affaires, replacing Sulayman al-Rasi.

RFL, VOL Resume News Broadcasts 25 Jan

NC2501063090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Radio Free Lebanon's editorial staff has decided to resume the regular transmission of news bulletins as of this hour.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese Forces' information department has issued the following statement:

As a result of the understanding reached between General Michel 'Awn and the chief editors of newspapers and news agencies in the liberated areas on the interpretation of the communique issued by the Information Ministry, and in solidarity with the body of the press in the liberated areas, it has been decided to adopt a unified stand. Hence, all the Lebanese Forces' media, as well as friendly media, will resume normal work as of today. Furthermore, the Voice of Lebanon's editorial staff will resume transmission of newscasts as of 0815 this morning.

In addition, AL-DIYAR newspaper will resume publication tomorrow morning.

Media 'Deal' With 'Awn Explained

NC2501154190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Media services in East Beirut have succumbed to 'Awn's measures. They have concluded a deal with him in which they will no longer call President Ilyas al-Hirawi president. The media services in East Beirut, however, have agreed to keep calling Dr Salim al-Huss prime minister and Husayn al-Husayni speaker, not in recognition of their legality but in the capacity of former prime minister for al-Huss and former speaker for al-Husayni. The media services have also agreed to call the ministers in the national coalition government ministers.

'Awn has agreed temporarily that the media services in East Beirut can refer to him as general.

Activities of 'Mr' Al-Hirawi, 'General' 'Awn Noted

NC2501073990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] On the political level, West Beirut political leaders are expected to hold meetings today to discuss the outcome of the recent Damascus talks concerning West Beirut security issues. The talks also dealt with political matters.

In this connection, a meeting took place yesterday which was attended by Mr [al-Sayyid] Ilyas al-Hirawi, Prime Minister [al-Ra'is] Salim al-Huss, Chamber Speaker [al-Ra'is] Husayn al-Husayni, and Ministers Ilyas al-Khazin and Albert Mansur. Also present were a number of security officials. The discussions touched upon certain security measures.

In another development, General Michel 'Awn addressed student delegations yesterday. He said that the future of Lebanon will be built on principles of independence, freedom, and dignity as well as on justice and equality.

Army Seeks Control Over Ba'labakk Barracks

NC2301111590 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 22 Jan 90 p 9

[Text] The Lebanese army has officially requested that it be given control over the Shaykh 'Abdallah's barracks in Ba'labakk. The request, according to well-informed sources, is part of the measures being taken by the Lebanese Army to gain control of its centers and barracks in all Lebanese areas in preparation for its playing a major role in restoring the sovereignty of the legitimate state throughout Lebanese territory.

The request should also be seen in the context of abolishing all pretexts for military barracks and centers to remain outside the control of the army. As such, it is a prelude to regaining control over the military centers and barracks in al-Yarzah and East Beirut.

According to the same sources, the handover of the Shaykh 'Abadallah barracks will take place soon and the party in command of this barracks [Hizballah] is currently facing a dilemma. A refusal to hand over the barracks would constitute a mutiny against the Syrian- and nationalist-backed legitimate authorities, while a handover would undermine its position in the area.

LF Reportedly Sets Up Contingency Headquarters

NC2301095490 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 22 Jan 90 p 9

[Text] Informed sources in the eastern area have reported that the Lebanese Forces [LF] have established a new barracks in the Qila' al-Mutran area which will be used as the LF headquarters in the event their original headquarters is subjected to military action. The barracks has been appropriately fortified and dozens of

tanks and other military vehicles have been seen in the area in an apparent precautionary measure against any military contigency.

2 Lahd Militiamen Wounded by Explosion

NC2301182090 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Two members of the agent Lahd militia [South Lebanese Army] were wounded today in an explosion when their armored vehicle passed near al-Tiri village in the eastern sector. According to AFP, one of the militiamen was transferred to the occupied Arab territories because his wounds were serious.

Dynamite Sticks Thrown in Tripoli 20 Jan

NC2101081590 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] The situation remained normal in all the northern districts of Tripoli, (al-Dinniyah), al-Batrun, Zgharta, Bsharri, Amyun, and 'Akkar yesterday despite former Army Commander Michel 'Awn's call for observing a day of solidaritay with the north on 20 January.

However, persons in several cars hurled sticks of dynamite to force stores, establishments, and schools to close in accordance with 'Awns call in Tripoli. These persons also scattered leaflets calling for a strike, compliance with 'Awn's call, and adherence to [words indistinct].

UN's Goulding Makes Statement, Leaves for Damascus

NC2201173690 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Marrack Goulding, UN under secretary for political affairs, left Beirut for Damascus this afternoon. While in Lebanon, he held a series of contacts with Lebanese officials and government members on the Lebanese situation and the renewal of the mandate of the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon [UNIFIL].

At the airport, Goulding was asked whether there is any fresh information about the fate of General [as heard] William Higgins. He replied: It is not my task to discuss this issue. However, the UN secretary general is concerned about this matter and wishes to know what happened to him. If Gen Higgins has been killed, let his body be handed over so that we may convey it to his family [word indistinct] the United States.

Asked whether he has any practical proposals on the Lebanese situation, especially in relation to southern Lebanon, he said: The United Nations is helping President Ilyas al-Hirawi and his government to extend its authority to all the Lebanese territories.

Earlier in the day, Goulding met with Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri. They discussed the (?situation) in the south, the role of UNIFIL, and the implementation of Resolution 425.

Goulding described the situation in the south as difficult due to the Israeli occupation and the UN forces' inability to implement Resolution 425. He noted that the United Nations is doing all it can to implement this resolution.

The UN official also met earlier with 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah. Sources close to Fadlallah said the talks dealt with the Lebanese question, the UN stand on this matter, and the renewal of the UN forces' mandate in the south.

'Ilamah Fadlallah stressed his rejection of [words indistinct].

Further Reportage on Al-Hirawi, Al-Asad Meeting

'Special Significance' Noted

JN2401152290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The Lebanese president's visit to Damascus and his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad have special significance considering the close relationship between the one people in the two sisterly countries. It also is significant considering Syrian support for saving Lebanon and helping the legitimate government in its confident steps toward implementing the al-Ta'if agreement articles and achieving national reconciliation to guarantee and consolidate Lebanon's unity, Arabism, security, and independence.

The Lebanese citizens and the Arab masses throughout the greater homeland expressed satisfaction and optimism at the convening of the Syrian-Lebanese summit, its anticipated positive results, and what it can achieve in the interest of Lebanon and the Arab nation. This is because Syria, which has stood on the side of the Lebanese people in all stages of sedition and plots to which Lebanon was exposed, adopted that stand out of concern for Lebanon's interests, unity, security, stability, and independence. Through this stand, Syria also expressed its concern for the Arab interests in confronting the Zionist plot aimed against Lebanon and the Arab nation.

The legitimate Lebanese Government leaders' visit to Damascus reiterated the depth of relations between the two sisterly countries and their strategic consonants. This visit and the talks conducted also have reflected the importance of Syria's salvation role and its continuous readiness to offer any assistance to the legitimate Lebanese Government and the Lebanese people to overcome their crisis and return to their normal role within their Arab environment.

This stand represents an extension of Syria's course toward Lebanon and its firm, solid stand to protect its unity and independence, put an end to the rebels and encroachers on the legitimate government, and liberate the south from Israeli occupation.

Since the ordeal imposed on the fraternal Lebanese people broke out, Al-Asad's Syria opened its heart and extended its hand to the Lebanese brothers. It did not hesitate for one moment to sacrifice the blood and sweat of its sons to enable the Lebanese people to overcome difficulties obstructing their path back to their normal life and to continue the march toward progress, tranquillity, stability, and the secure future that would maintain Lebanon's unity and Arabism.

The salvation role of Al-Asad's Syria, which stems from a firm pan-Arab view, always was the target of Lebanon's and the Arab nation's enemies. Those enemies, who were able to penetrate into the social structure of the sisterly country and plant a few agents, realized that continuing this pioneer pan-Arab role is the only obstacle to their dark schemes and plots. The overwhelming majority of the fraternal Lebanese people have always stressed their adherence to Syria's role because they have realized with their sound pan-Arab instinct that Syria, which became—under the leadership of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad—a bastion for Arab free men and strugglers, is the main and only supporter in their resolute struggle to preserve their homeland's unity, independence, and sovereignty.

Syria continued to be honest to the pledge, to open its heart for all Lebanese without exception, and render every assistance to the fraternal Lebanese people to achieve their objectives, end their crisis, and overcome difficulties obstructing the course of their national reconciliation. Syria did not listen to the slanders of the enemies and their small agents, because its objective always has been the salvation of Lebanon and its people from the claws of the Zionist scheme, because salvation is a Lebanese, Syrian, and pan-Arab higher interest.

There is no doubt the summit meeting and its results will be transformed in the coming stage into practical measures toward entrenching the legitimate Lebanese Government, spreading its sovereignty over all the Lebanese territories, and ending the abnormal situation in East Beirut.

Press on Visit, Arab Strategy

JN2501080890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 25 Jan 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Damascus Meeting—a National, Pan-Arab, and Humanitarian Stance" AL-BA'TH says: Observers were unanimous on the special importance of the outcome of the Damascus fraternal meeting between leader Al-Asad and President al-Hirawi. The meeting gave the national reconciliation march new impetus that would expedite the end of the anomalous situation in the eastern area. Syria always has wanted Lebanon to be healthy and enjoy prosperity, security, stability, sovereignty, and independence against a background of cohesive national unity. Syria rushed to help and save Lebanon when its security and destiny were subjected to a serious threat posed by a political structure linked to the entity of the Israeli enemy.

The paper stresses the defeats suffered by this structure, which is affiliated with the enemy, were innumerable, the latest being the al-Ta'if agreement, which is part of a series of defeats that will continue because they embody the aspirations of the Lebanese people. Syria helped and supported the Lebanese people and will continue to do so without any conditions.

Under the headline "The Danger and the Motives for Change" AL-THAWRAH says: Signs of the Israeli threat to the Arab nation are innumerable. Israel has become a dagger in the Arab body; it gives itself the right to strike at any part of the Arab homeland. The paper reviews Zionist terrorism in the the Golan, southern Lebanon, and occupied Palestine. The Palestinian Arab people, it says, are suffering under the yoke of the hateful occupation, which practices against them the most terrible forms of terrorism and racism.

The paper adds: The Zionist entity is threatening all Arab countries with its expansionist schemes aimed at fragmenting the Arab scene and preoccupying it with many secondary problems. The paper stresses this danger calls for reconsidering the bases of the common Arab action. It requires laying down a unified Arab strategy that considers facing up to the Zionist danger a priority, aiming to curb it and restore usurped rights.

In another article, AL-THAWRAH says: Despite all oppressive measures practiced by the Israeli occupation authorities to suppress and crush the intifadah, Israel failed to realize its goal or affect determination of our revolutionary kinfolk and their resolute insistence on continuing resistance and steadfastness no matter the cost.

Lebanese Radio Says 3 Dead in Violent Clashes

NC2401133690 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] The Lebanese Radio has learned through an urgent report from Damascus violent clashes have occurred between groups belonging to Mustafa al-Tajir, nephew of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, and groups under Shafiq Fayyad, Syrian intelligence military official. The clashes so far have left three dead and one injured. A large number of Syrian intelligence personnel was seen on the roads between Damascus and Aleppo.

Oil Minister Meets With GDR Trade Official

JN2201194490 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1555 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Damascus, 22 Jan (SANA)—Dr Antonios Habib, minister of oil and mineral wealth, met here today with the deputy minister of foreign trade in the German Democratic Republic [GDR] and his delegation, visiting Syria at an official invitation.

They talked about economic and trade relations and their development. They agreed to direct specialized corporations and companies in the two countries to step up bilateral cooperation. The two ministers expressed desire to develop ties, especially in the field of mineral wealth and phosphates. Officials of both countries, it also was agreed, would work to overcome hurdles hampering smooth implementation of joint projects.

Al-Shar', UN Official Discuss Al-Ta'if Accord

JN2301164790 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1520 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Damascus, 23 Jan (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this afternoon received Marrack Goulding, UN under secretary for political affairs. Diya'allah al-Fattal, assistant minister of foreign affairs; Major General 'Adnan Tayyarah; and Dr Najdi al-Jazzar, director of the Foreign Ministry's Organizations Department, attended. Talks centered on the Lebanese situation and the legitimate Lebanese Government's efforts to remove obstacles to implementing the al-Ta'if agreement.

Tunisian Culture Minister Arrives With Message

JN2501072090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Tunisian Culture and Information Minister Habib Boulares arrived yesterday in Damascus on a 2-day visit to the country. Information Minister Muhammad Salman, Tunisian Ambassador Abdelhamid 'Ammar, and a number of senior staff at the Foreign and Information Ministeries received him.

Mr Boulares said in a statement to a SANA correspondent he is carrying a message from President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to his brother President Hafiz al-Asad. The message, he said, concerns work to promote the excellent bilateral relations between the two fraternal countries and is part of consultations on Arab and international issues, especially on the principal Arab issue; the struggling Palestinian Arab people who face Israel's intransigence and rejection of all peaceful solutions based on legitimate international resolutions.

He added: The message comes in the wake of the Arab Maghreb Union's summit meetings, which aimed at supporting common Arab action under the umbrella of the Arab League. The aim is to strengthen bonds between the two sides of the Arab homeland, the eastern and western flanks. Boulares said in conclusion: His Excellency President Ben Ali asked me to convey his greetings and brotherly feelings to the president, government, and people of fraternal Syria and his best wishes of welfare and prosperity to this genuine Arab people.

Afghanistan

Kabul Reports Najibullah News Conference

LD2401172890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, participated in a press conference today, held with domestic and foreign journalists, in Storay Palace of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, and answered their question. Esteemed Najibullah, at the beginning of the press conference, spoke about achievements regarding the signing of the Geneva agreements; military-political developments in the country after the withdrawal of the Soviet Union's limited contingents; the peace proposals of, and measure taken by, the Republic of the Afghanistan Government and the independent defense of the country's territorial integrity, national sovereignty and independence. He also spoke about the expansion of foreign interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs. Later, esteemed Najibullah answered questions from domestic and foreign journalists on various topics, including the situation in the country and the peace proposals of the Republic of Afghanistan Government.

Welcomes Reopening of Embassies

BK2401151490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1412 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Kabul, Jan 24 (AFP)—Afghan President Najibullah Wednesday (24 January] said a number of Western countries, including France, had decided to reopen their embassies in Kabul and that his government guaranteed their security.

"We guarantee their security in line with the Vienna (diplomatic) convention, they can continue their activities as usual in Afghanistan," the president said at a press conference in the Foreign Ministry here.

He did not name the other countries, but diplomatic sources said here last week that Italy was likely to follow France in March and possibly West Germany.

None of the countries that hastily pulled their embassy staffs out of Kabul in January last year fearing chaos after the February 15 Soviet troop withdrawal had broken diplomatic relations with Kabul, he said.

Indonesia reopened its embassy here at the charge d'affaires level January 10, shortly after Paris announced that France would be the first West European nation to reopen its mission. The French decision to return has been criticised by Washington, London and Tokyo as "lending legitimacy to the Najibullah regime."

"Events in the past year have demonstrated that predictions of the (lack of) viability of the Afghan Government have proved unfounded," Mr. Najibullah said. [passage omitted]

Soviet Friendship Delegation departs 22 Jan

LD2201145390 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] The Soviet-Afghan Friendship Society delegation led by society chairman (Y.G. Pechinkov), which arrived in Kabul recently at the invitation of the Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization of the Republic of Afghanistan, left here today for the Soviet Union. [passage omitted]

Soviet Parliamentary Official Meets Leaders

LD2401083490 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 23, BAKHTAR—The high-ranking parliamentary delegation of the Soviet Union led by Aleksandr Aleksandrovich Mokanu, deputy chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet arrived to Kabul yesterday at the invitation of the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA), today had a meeting with the activists of the social organisations of the RA in the House of Science and Culture of the Soviet Union in Kabul, reports BAKHTAR.

In the meeting which was attended by administrative members, chairmen of the international commissions and members of both houses of the National Assembly of the RA, representatives of socio-political organisations and Azikov minister counsellor of the Soviet Embassy in Afghanistan, the head of the guest delegation talked on the work of the USSR's parliament, process of perestroyka "reconstruction" in the Soviet Union and made outstanding the positive outcomes of reconstruction in different socio-economic and political walks of life of the Soviet society.

Habib Mangal, chairman of the International Relations Commission of the National Assembly of the RA, also talked on the implementation of national reconciliation policy in the RA, and searching ways for the solution of the Afghan issue as well as maintaining country-wide peace in Afghanistan.

At the end of the meeting, the head of the Soviet delegation replied to the questions raised by the attendees on reconstruction policy in the USSR.

Based on another report, the head of the guest delegation inaugurated today a photo exhibition of the congress of the representatives of the people of the Soviet Union, depicting the successes achieved in reconstruction field in the Soviet Union, photos depicting results and gains of perestroyka in the USSR are on display in the exhibition opened in the House of Science and Culture of the USSR in Kabul.

Meanwhile, the Soviet parliamentary delegation today went to the Jangalak technical complex, and saw different wards and productive shops of the complex, and presented gifts to the children of the kindergarten of the said enterprise.

Further on Mokanu's Meetings

LD2401085190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 23, BAKHTAR—Dr. Khalil Ahmad 'Abawi anbd Dr. Mahmud Habibi, speakers of the Houses of Representatives and House of Senate of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) met at the headquarters of that house with the parliamentary delegation of the Soviet Union headed by Aleksandr Aleksandrovich Mokanu, deputy chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet on January 22, 1990.

During the meeting the administrative staff of the said houses, B.N. Pastukhov, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Soviet Union in Kabul were present.

The head of the Soviet delegation conveyed to Dr 'Abawi and M. Habibi best wishes of the Soviet people and parliament and personal greetings of Mikhail Gorbachev, chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and general secretary of the CPSU to the people and parliament of the RA. The greetings wish further successes of the Afghan National Assembly for the realisation of national reconciliation policy and ensurance of a nation-wide peace in the RA.

The sides in the meeting talked in detail on the long-standing traditional friendship existing between the people's of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union and exchange of parliamentary delegations for the further expansion and consolidation of this relation.

Later, Dr 'Abawi and M. Habibi while explaining method of procedure of the House of Representatives and Senate of the RA said that the experience achieved during the past 3 years proved that peace and democracy are inter-linked. The state of the RA not only organised independent military defence of the country but it continued efforts for the political solution of the Afghan problem and creation of a broad-based coalition government, with the participation of all political forces in the country as well. Maintaining of normal activities of the National Assembly of the RA under the critical conditions which made inevitable proclamation of the state of emergency in the country is a true evidence to this fact.

While speaking on political situation in the country 'Abawi and Habibi expressed support of the National Assembly from the radio-televised speech of President Najibullah delivered on January 15, 1990 pertaining to the principled assessment of the State of the RA and convening of elections in the country.

They said that the National Assembly of the RA attaches high value to the strengthening of inter-parliamentary relations between the state of having different socio-economic systems as a main factor for the consolidation of peace and mutual trust at the world level.

The Afghan National Assembly has taken firm steps forward to obtain membership of the inter-parliamentary union as well.

Speaking of the policy of perestroyka (reconstruction) in the Soviet Union, specially in the Soviet parliament, they expressed their further hopes for the success of the Soviet people in the future.

At the end of the meeting the head of the Soviet delegation informed the Afghan side on the work and activities of the Soviet parliament, perestroyka and its gains so far achieved.

Talks With Leaders Continue

LD2501085990 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0524 Jan 25 Jan 90

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 24, BAKHTAR—'Abdul Rahim Hatif, first vice-president of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] today in his office, had a meeting with the high-ranking parliamentary delegation of the Soviet Union led by Aleksander Mokanu, deputy chiarman of the Parliament Council of the union and member of the Central Auditing Commission of the Soviet Communist Party, who is here on the invitation friendly and on official visit, of the RA National Assembly" parliament" reports BAKHTAR. [sentence as received]

During the meeting vice-president of the RA informed the guest delegation of the current situation of the country and gains of the national reconciliation in the Republic of Afghanistan.

Reciprocally, the Soviet parliamentary delegation spoke on the process of the perestroyka "reconstruction" in the Soviet Union and gave detailed information to the vice-president of the RA in the field as well.

Meanwhile, in this meeting, while Azdikov minister counsellor of the USSR Embassy in Kabul was also present, the sides have also talked on matters of mutual interests.

According to another report, Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers of the RA has also met today at the headquarters of that council with A. Mokanu here.

Mohammad Hakim, deputy prime minister, Sultan Husayn minister of planning, Faqir Mohammad Yaqubi, minister without portfolio and B.N. Pastorhov, Soviet Ambassador to Kabul were also present during the meeting.

During the meeting S.A. Keshtmand while providing the Soviet side with adequate information on politico-military situation in the country, considered, under the present conditions the visit of the high-ranking Soviet parliamentary delegation to the RA as manifestation of good-will in the existing Afghan-Soviet friendly relations.

The sides talked on matters of mutual interests.

Meets With Defense Minister

LD2501092690 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 24, BAKHTAR—General Shahnawaz Tanay, minister of defense of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] met with the high-ranking Soviet parliamentary delegation headed by M. Aleksander Aleksanderovich, deputy president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet in his office here on January 23.

During the meeting, while chairman of the international relations department of the Houses of Representatives, executive board of both houses of the Parliament and Pastoukhov, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Soviet Union in Kabul were present, the defense minister spoke on the military situation in the country and the friendly assistance of the USSR with Afghanistan in socio-politico and military fields and thanked the Soviet side for its all-sided assistance renders to the RA.

Reciprocally head of the Soviet delegation gave information about the work and activities of the Soviet parliament in the light of reconstruction "perestroyka" in that country and wished further successes for the personnel of the RA armed forces in realisation of the national reconciliation policy and cessation of war and fratricide.

At the end of the meeting medals of the 70th anniversary of restoration of independence of Afghanistan were awarded to the Soviet parliamentary delegation.

According to another report the Soviet delegation visited different parts of Military Academy of Afghanistan and participated in gala function held in that academy held on the 70th anniversary of Afghanistan-Soviet friendship.

At the outset of the meeting general Abdus Satar, commander of the military academy delivered his speech on the Afghan-Soviet friendship. Later on Haji Baigov, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet and Mumtaz Ahmad, a student of the academy spoke in connection to the issue as well. The Soviet delegation visited museum of the said academy as well. At the end the gift of the academy was awarded to the Soviet delegation.

Vice President Meets With Soviet Officials

LD2501083990 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0522 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 24, BAKHTAR—'Abdul Hamid Mohtat, vice president of the Republic of Afghanistan who had gone to the Soviet Union at the head of a delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan met seperately with Tereshkova, chairperson of the state organisation of the Soviet Union in the affairs of foreign countries and Nishanov, chairperson of the Nationalities Council of the USSR Supreme Soviet yesterday.

During the meeting both sides exchanged views on matters of mutual interests.

Pakistani Charge Summoned to Foreign Ministry

LD2501084890 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0512 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 24, BAKHTAR—Charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan here today and the following was conveyed to him by the caretaker of the First Political Department of that ministry.

The responsible authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) have reported that two Pakistani jet fighters violated the air space of the RA in Shinkay Ghar of Khowst Grand District on 14th January 1990 at 10:09 local time and after six minutes reconnaissance flights 45 km deep into the Afghan territory left the area at 10:15 local time and returned back to Pakistan.

The Foreign Ministry of the RA while regards such aggressive actions of the Pakistani authorities a clear violation of the norms and principles of international relations and of the Geneva accords, lodge strongly its protest and demands from the responsible authorities of that country to refrain from repetition of such aggressions against the RA air-space in the future. [sentence as received] Of course in the case of the repetition of such incidents, the grave consequences would rest on the Pakistani Government.

BAKHTAR Analyst on U.S. Official's Position

LD2401075790 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 23, BAKHTAR—A political analyst of BAKHTAR writes Robert Kimmitt, U.S. under secretary of state for political affairs tried to formulate the U.S. Administration's approach to the political settlement of the Afghan problem. Touring Middle East and South Asian countries, he addressed a news conference in Islamabad.

Kimmitt asserted that the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan is a stumbling block on the road to the settlement of the Afghan problem.

He expressed the hope that during the negotiations to be held in Moscow in February, the heads of the diplomatic agencies of the Soviet Union and the United States will seriously discuss the question of replacing the Kabul regime.

It will be appropriate to tell Mr. Kimmit that it is for the Afghan people to decide the question of the future political structure and state power in Afghanistan.

And this question is to be decided on the basis of national reconciliation, dialogue and at a negotiating table, not by means of force at the battlefield.

Apparently, it is in this view that the subject was discussed in W[illegible]ng. The joint statement signed by the minister of the USSR and the USA noted that while having different approaches to a political settlement on a basis of national reconciliation, the sides agreed that a period of transition is needed and that there must be a mechanism for creating a broad based government. It would be possible to create such structures as a Consultative Council functioning on a basis of fair representation of all Afghan political forces staying within the country and abroad.

If it works successfully, and if hostilities in Afghanistan are terminated, the Council could decide the question of forming a broad based coalition government.

The draft new constitution would be worked out later. It could be endorsed by Loya Jirgah, body traditional for Afghanistan.

In accordance with the Constitution, free elections could be held, under international control if needed. Following that the victorious parties would form a new cabinet which would get down to the restoration of economy and normal life in the country.

If the United States is really interested in the search for the way out of an impasse in which its policy landed in Afghanistan, it would face realities.

Consequently, it should recognise the viability of the Afghan Government following the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, should stop banking on an artificial Peshawar based "transitional government" and on the rebels who are torn by strife among themselves and with the population.

The attempts to solve the Afghan problem through keeping apart from this process the Kabul Government and the PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan] influential force in Afghanistan, will be futile.

Council of Ministers Executive Committee Meets

LD2401095890 Kabul Bakhtar in English 0518 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 23, BAKHTAR—The periodic session of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan, RA, presided over by Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the RA's Council of Ministers was held today at the headquarters of the said council.

In this session the issue pertaining to the provision of flour and diesel needed by the newly established bakery enterprises running by private entrepreneurs, and fixing the prices of their productions were debated.

In the session it was emphasised that by availing the USSR's credit granted to the RA for upgrading and assisting the private entrepreneurs of the country, treaties have been concluded for the establishment of 41 mixed and private industrial projects, including 23 bakery complexes, 12 in Kabul and 11 in provinces of the country.

The session stated that the works of 14 bakeries running by private entrepreneurs, have been completed and are due to commence their productions.

Likewise, the session discussed matters related to utilization of technical and economic aid of the United Nations Organisations [UNO] and other international institutions to the RA for setting up of public utility establishments.

In this session, the Council of Ministers of the RA appreciated the assistance of the UNO, and its related institutions in financing some projects and paving ground for training experts in abroad.

To better utilize and accelerate such aids in the coming years, the session assigned certain tasks to the ministries of planning and foreign affairs and other concerned organs of the RA.

Meanwhile, in today's session of the Council of Ministers of the RA the composition of the leading body of the Kabul housing complex, and other important issues were discussed, and necessary decisions were adopted.

Rebels Express Solidarity for 'Azeri Brethren'

BK2401034290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0305 GMT 24 Jan 90

[By Rene Slama]

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Jan 24 (AFP)—Afghan resistance fighters here, "in solidarity" with the struggle of Muslims in Azerbaijan, insist that the Soviet setback in Afghanistan has hastened events in the southern Soviet republic. Several resistance spokesmen here said that sooner or later the other Muslim Soviet republics in Central Asia would also rise up and fight.

All the Pakistan-based Afghan resistance parties condemned the Soviet military intervention last week in Baku, the Azerbaijani capital, and offered unreserved support for their "Azeri brothers."

One spokesman called them "innocent martyrs in the fight for Muslim liberation," while another said the resistance was "in solidarity with their struggle."

The Afghan mujahidin are fighting to overthrow the Soviet-backed Kabul regime of President Najibullah, whom they describe as a "Kremlin puppet."

Moscow continues to arm and supply the Kabul regime despite the February 1989 withdrawal of its forces from Afghanistan after a nine-year occupation aimed at propping up the Kabul regime against mujahidin guerrillas.

Afghan mujahidin leaders are convinced the turmoil in Azerbaijan will have repercussions for the other Soviet

republics with majority Muslim populations, especially in Turkestan, Uzbekistan and Tadzhikistan, which all border Afghanistan.

Attacking "the murderous invasion of the Soviet forces in Azerbaijan," a spokesman for the Jamiat-e Eslami—one of the seven Sunni factions in the Pakistan-based Afghan resistance—said "what is happening today is one of the consequences of the defeat and the retreat of the Red Army from Afghanistan."

"There will be follow-ups in the other Muslim republics in the USSR," the spokesman said.

Umar Sherdil, the Jamiat spokesman here in the Pakistan-Afghan border town of Peshawar, emphasised the close links between Afghan Tadzhiks and those in the Soviet Union.

He said that during the nine year-Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, "numerous Muslim soldiers, particularly Tadzhiks, cooperated with the resistance and exchanged their weapons for Holy Korans."

Mr. Sherdil also revealed the existence of "infiltrations" into Soviet Tadzhikistan by mujahidin fighters under the command of Ahmed Shah Ma'sud, one of the leaders of the resistance who controls large areas in northen Afghanistan, to distribute "the holy books."

"Afghans have proved the Russian army is not invincible," said Azim Nasir Zia, spokesman for the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan. "We support the Azeris. We support all freedom struggle, especially of Muslims in USSR."

Meanwhile 'Abdul Rahim, spokesman for the Afghan Interim Government, said the "intentions of the Russians became clear after the Baku intervention, glasnost and perestroika are not going to work in the south (the Muslim republics)."

While Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev "showed relaxation in Eastern Europe and in the Baltic republics," in the face of challenges to his rule in the Caucasus region, he "decided to crush the Azeri movement," Mr. Rahim added.

The Hezb-e Eslami of fundamentalist leader Golbuddin Hekmatyar sees a link between events in Azerbaijan and in Indian-held Kashmir, where a resurgent separatist campaign against the Hindu-majority state has left some 62 dead in the last three weeks.

"The Muslims in these lands must not think they are alone. The whole Muslim nation is bound to rush to the aid of their brothers under (the) oppression of atheist Russia and secular India," a Hezb statement said.

"The Soviets should learn the lesson of Afghanistan and think twice before resorting to terrorism against the Muslims," the Hezb added.

Most Afghan resistance groups believe the turmoil in the southern Soviet Union has weakened the Kabul regime of President Najibullah, whom they claim the Soviets are ready to "sacrifice" in favour of former Afghan King Zahir Shah, in a bid to guarantee stability on their southern border.

Na'im Majruh, an Afghan intellectual exiled in Pakistan, son of the poet Sayd Bahauddin Majruh and director of the Afghan Information Centre, said "communism was bound to fall and the jihad (holy war) in Afghanistan accelerated it."

"Afghanistan is a sacred land. The history of Afghanistan tells us that all empires lost everywhere after they lost in Afghanistan," he said. "The Mongolians, the British and now it is going to happen to the Soviets. Sooner or later, the Azeri fever is going to spread to other republics.

Mujahidin Rebels Foil Attack, Destroy 2 Planes

BK2501084590 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin are reported to have foiled a Kabul regime force's attack on the positions [words indistinct] Khowst city. A high-ranking Kabul regime officer and several soldiers were killed during the fighting. The mujahidin are also reported to have destroyed two Kabul regime planes in the area. A transport plane was destroyed at Khowst Air Base, while another one was shot down during bombing sorties against mujahidin positions.

Another report says that the mujahidin, during an operation in Samangan Province, captured 22 Kabul personnel, including their 2 commanders.

India

Spokesman on Talks With U.S. Official Kimmitt

BK2001082590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] The United States has appreciated India's policy pronouncements to improve relations with its neighbors and expressed interest to intensify high-level contacts between the two countries. This was conveyed by the visiting U.S. under secretary of state, Mr Robert Kimmitt, to Indian leaders and officials in New Delhi yesterday.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman told newsmen that Mr Kimmitt briefed the prime minister about U.S. efforts to find a solution of the Afghan problem. He also had talks with the foreign secretary, Mr S.K. Singh, and the defense secretary, Mr Naresh Chandra.

While informing Mr Kimmitt about the country's efforts to improve relations with its neighbors, the Indian side drew his attention to Pakistan's interference in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir.

Mauritian Prime Minister Arrives on 8-Day Visit

BK2401092990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] The Mauritius prime minister, Mr Aneerood Jugnauth, arrived in New Delhi today on an 8-day visit. He was given a ceremonial reception at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House]. Among those who received Mr Jugnauth were the prime minister, Mr V.P. Singh; the external affairs minister, Mr Gujral; and the finance minister, Professor Madhu Dandavate.

Speaking to newsmen, Mr V.P. Singh expressed the hope that the visit of Mr Jugnauth will impart further impetus to bilateral relations. Mr Singh said that Mauritius is not only near to India geographically but has a special place in our hearts.

Mr Jugnauth said that the people of the two countries were not only linked by strong bonds of trade cooperation, but also by blood and sentiments. He recalled the support of Mahatma Gandhi to the freedom struggle in Mauritius.

Mr Jugnauth will be the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations [on 26 January].

Cooperation Agreements Signed

BK2401161190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] India and Mauritius have agreed to jointly combat drug trafficking and to cooperate in the fields of oceanography. These were among the six agreements signed by the two sides in New Delhi today in the presence of the prime minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, and the visiting Mauritius prime minister, Mr Aneerood Jugnauth.

The Narcotics Control Bureau will be the Indian agency to coordinate with authorities in Mauritius in preventing movement of drugs. India will provide training and expertise to help Mauritius to explore and exploit its exclusive economic zone. Setting up of a radio telescope for astronomical studies, cooperation in the field of science and technology, a cultural exchange program, and cooperation in sports and youth affairs are the other areas of agreements.

Briefing newsmen, the External Affairs Ministry spokesman said that the prime ministers of the two countries during their talks expressed determination to strengthen bilateral relations.

Trade With Czechoslovakia 'To Touch a New High'

BK2401100590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Trade between India and Czechoslovakia is to touch a new high of over 731 crore rupees this year. Under a trade protocol signed in New Delhi today, imports will be of 365 crore rupees, while exports to Czechoslovakia will be worth over 366 crore pees. As compared to last year's protocol, the plan for current year represents an increase of over 26 perc in the Indian exports, while the increase in imports bout 25 percent.

Former Atomic Chief Becomes State Defense inister

BK2001075090 Delhi Domestic Service in Engh 0730 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] Dr Raja Ramanna, former chairm of the Atomic Energy Commission, has been apr nted as minister of state for defense. Dr Ramanna wa worn in by the president, Mr R. Venkataraman, at a ce mony at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] a short nile ago. The prime minister, Mr V.P. Singh, and Exter Affairs Minister Mr Inder Kumar Gujral were amc others present at the ceremony. With the inducti of Dr Ramanna, the strength of the union council of inisters has gone up to 22.

2 Ministers of State Given Additional Por lios

BK2001161690 Delhi Domestic Service in Engh 1530 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] The union minister of state for environ ent and forests, Mrs Maneka Gandhi, will also hold e additional charge of the minister of state for progr implementation. A Rashtrapati Bhavan [Presider House] communique issued in New Delhi this evening aid that the minister of state for science and technol y, Professor M.G.K. Menon, will also hold the a itional charge of the minister of state for educatic in the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Kashmir Governor Announces Measures for Yo hs

BK2401132590 Delhi Domestic Service in Engh 1230 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] The governor of Jammu and Kashmir Mr Jag Mohan, has announced a number of mea es for removal of unemployment and poverty from e state. Addressing a news conference in Srinagar to ay, the governor announced that five battalions of e BSF [Border Security Force] are being raised to mploy Kashmiri youths and applications in this reg d have been invited from the 1st of next month. He sai his will give employment to 7,000 youths. Mr Jag Mo in said that 25 crore rupees have been sanctioned for e construction of school buildings and a special cell is ing set up to undertake the construction on priority sis. He said about 3,000 teachers are also being recrui

Meanwhile, day curfew has been lifted from th e more towns, namely (Kutwara), Handwara, and Tre am. It was earlier lifted from Baramula and Sopor lowing improvement in the situation. In downtown inagar, the 4-hour curfew relaxation period in the orning passed off peacefully, but due to tension in Civil Lines area of the city, the curfew had to be re posed

from noon today. In Anantnag, barring stray incidents of arson, the situation remained peaceful.

Four Muslim organizations have urged the government to ban the militant and secessionist organizations active in the Kashmir Valley and said the Army should take over the administration there. In a joint press release in New Delhi, the Indian Muslim Youth Conference, Muslims for Progress, Nationalist Muslim Sangharsh Vahini [Struggle Force], and Muslim Mahila Mandal [Women's Association] urged the prime minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, to take stringent measures to deal with the militants and protect people in the Kashmir Valley.

'Militants' Threaten To Kidnap UN Observers

BK2401150490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1402 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Srinagar, India, Jan 24 (AFP)—Moslem militants have threatened to kidnap members of a U.N. observer team charged with monitoring the dividing line between the Indian and Pakistan sides of Kashmir, press reports said Wednesday [24 January].

The reports in the Indian press said the 35-strong U.N. team of military officers from several countries had received letters from Moslem militants saying "we will kidnap you as the United Nations Security Council is not taking any keen interest to get the Kashmir issue resolved."

A U.N. spokesman in New Delhi said he could not comment on the reports.

A jeep carrying Italian officers from the U.N. team was attacked Tuesday by demonstrators in Srinagar's Sonawar District forcing Indian soldiers escorting them to open fire into the crowd killing five people, police said. Earlier reports on the shooting made no mention of the fact that the jeep contained U.N. officers.

The U.N. office in New Delhi issued a communique Wednesday stressing that "the United Nations military observers working along the line of control are unarmed and strictly neutral in this conflict." [passage omitted]

Based in Srinagar, the summer capital of the Indian side of the northern region, and in Rawalpindi on the Pakistan side, the U.N. team includes officers from Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Italy, Uruguay, and Chile.

'Terrorists' Kill Air Force Personnel in Kashmir

BK2501093590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, curfew has been completely lifted from four towns of the Kashmir Valley. The towns are Badgam, Magam, (Biawa), and Awantipura. The day curfew has been lifted in seven towns of Handwara, Kotwara, Trehgam, Baramula, Sopor, Anantnag, and Bijbehara. In Srinagar City the curfew was relaxed from 0500 to 1000, while in Shupiyan, Pompor, Tral, and Pulwama it was relaxed from 0500 to 0900 this morning.

Meanwhile, four Indian Air Force [IAF] personnel were killed and nine injured by some armed miscreants in Rawalpura housing colony on the outskirts of Srinagar City this morning. According to an official spokesman the IAF personnel were waiting for their office vehicle at a crossing when two motorcycle-borne terrorists sprayed bullets at them with automatic weapons. The injured have been rushed to hospital.

According to another report, some militants snatched rifles from policemen and security guards at a telephone exchange in Badgam last night.

The state governor, Mr Jag Mohan, has appealed to the people to shun the fear psychosis created by the misguided elements and cooperate with the administration in restoring normalcy. In a message issued in Srinagar today, he said if the misguided elements continue to disturb law and order situation, then the authorities will be forced to take action in the interest of public peace. He said if any loss of property takes place, the responsibility solely lies with them.

The National Conference parliamentary party leader, Professor Saifuddin Soz, has urged the prime minister, Mr V.P. Singh, to visit the state to help restore normalcy there. In a statement in New Delhi, Professor Soz said the only soft [as heard] option for restoring normalcy in the state lay in a three-point program suggested by him which included prime minister's visit to the valley.

Iran

Khamene'i Speaks on Revolution Anniversary

LD2401142290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Excerpts] [Announcer] On the eve of the blessed "10 Days of Dawn" celebrations, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i today met with a group of the respected families of martyrs of Amol; seminary students from Babol; the 'ulema, officials, Friday prayer leaders, and various citizens of Lahijan and Robat-Karim; students and educators of the provinces of Tehran and Kerman; a group of Holy Koran reciters; teachers from martyrs' schools and teacher trainers of the Province of Mazendaran; officials from the headquarters of the 10 Days of Dawn of the Islamic Revolution; the head of the prison organization and the Welfare and Conduct of Prisoners, and the directors-general of prisons throughout the country; the supervisor and officials of the State Registry organization; workers from the Zamyad factory and the inhabitants of Danesh township; mobilization officials of government departments; and officials and managers of the country's housing organization.

With this broadcast of the speech by the leader of the Islamic Revolution at this meeting, we shall bring to an

end the news bulletin of the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran for this hour. God bless you.

[Begin Khamene'i recording] [crowd chants] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. First of all, I would like to thank all the brothers and sisters—especially the respected families of our honored martyrs and the esteemed 'ulema and strugglers in the path of God—who have come from far away and from various places, in this cold weather. We thank God that, once again, our great nation—feeling strong, healthy, and great—finds itself on the eve of the "10 Days of Dawn" and the bright days full of the memories of the victory of the revolution.

This year we are honoring the return of our great imam [Khomeyni] to the country and the great revolution which he brought about, although he is no longer with us. And this is a heavy and heart-rending sorrow for us; but if the imam is not here, his God, his path, his guidelines, and his shining example that always guided us toward the right path, are still here. What is important is that we should recognize the great deed that the imam carried out and appreciate it.

Let us not dwell on the centuries of the domination of despots over this country. Throughout the length of history, our country—apart from a very few breaks—has been constantly subjected to the domination of despots and selfish and bloodthirsty rulers. We shall not say much right now about what happened to our nation during these long periods of despotism and the fact that the Iranian nation was constantly humiliated by greedy rulers, but 200 years passed before the emergence and escalation of the Islamic movement; for 200 years the nation of Iran was subjected to the pressures and constant and cruel humiliation afflicted on it by the hegemonious foreign enemies.

From the day that the foreigner set foot in this country as the hegemonous powers in the world of those times, the intervention of foreign powers and their policies in our country started. First came the British and then, in rivalry with them, Tsarist Russia intervened and there was rivalry between these two powers for many years in our country over the exertion of greater influence until, with the coming to power of the evil Pahlavi dynasty, the hegemony of the British over Iran was fully strengthened. Later, after 2 or 3 decades, the Americans entered the arena and continued to use their satanic, evil, bullying, surreptitious, and base power over our country and nation for years and years.

Throughout these 200 years, the Iranian nation was not in charge of its destiny; it did not have power over its own wealth and resources; it did not have any share in the advance of science and industry in the world; it had no real hope in the future. [passage omitted]

The nation was hit from within and destroyed; the grudges of these 200 years were nursed by our people and nation—especially in the past few years when the Islamic culture of people, the capabilities of the people, their political aspirations, were completely ignored and, indeed, mocked by the colonialists and interfering powers.

Our people were ready to carry out a movement; there was need for a great leader and correct ideology to guide them, and this correct ideology was that same Islamic ideology which had deep roots of faith and belief in the being of people. That great leader and person was that same great man who was chosen by God to rescue this nation, rather, to rescue all the oppressed, especially the Muslims, in our time and century. And this great revolution took place.

The mercenary, devious, and lackey pens of the Zionists and the Americans and the other enemies of Islam in the world have been writing for 11 years—about 11 years—asking: What were the achievements of this revolution in Iran? They exaggerate the shortages and keep pointing these out to people. They do not understand that when a movement occurs in a country and involves the people in the arena—giving the nation an identity; drawing from within the nation itself its ruler, its government, the administration and management of the country; allowing people's opinion and faith to govern their lives—that when that nation awakens and senses it has an identity, then the path in front of that nation is open. Our fundamental problem was that we had been tied down by many chains of colonialism—political, economic, and cultural chains, the despotic chains of a lackey ruler, and the chains of this nation's lack of confidence in itself. [passage omitted] The revolution gave back to the people their lives, their cheerfulness, their faith. We are a nation today which is alive. And it is because of this that so much work, struggle, and useful service has been carried out in this country which would have been impossible to carry out during the time of the tyrannical rulers. [passage omitted]

All of the things we have achieved are due to the blessing of that revolution and that great person, that imam, justly and truly the heir of the prophets and the prominent figure of our times. It is due to these blessings, and all of it due to the blessings of Islam; the imam too, the greatness of his personality, was due to the blessings of Islam and our nation owes its greatness to the blessings of Islam.

I want to tell our dear nation to appreciate the value of the "10 Days of Dawn" period and the 11 February revolution anniversary. That memory constitutes the greatest event for our nation since the arrival of Islam in our homeland and borders. Of course, the enemies of Islam and the revolution show enmity even toward the memory of the revolution and its victory. Despite them, do commemorate the memory of the revolution!

Over the past 10 years, our enemies have always sought to deliver blows to this revolution and to tarnish the shining image of the imam. Those people who claim to be champions of human rights, would, in a moment, smash the rights of a nation beneath their feet.

The Americans, who claim to be proponents of human rights, have the most sincere type of relations with certain regimes in whose countries the most basic foundations of democracy, liberty, and human rights are nonexistent. The Americans do not criticize them. There are countries which do not even have parliaments, and countries where people have no political presence. However, such things are not considered to be wrong by the leaders of the United States. What they are facing is Islam, and it is Islam that they constantly try to find fault with.

In any way that our nation lives, and any level of progress that you attain, in all of life's currents, the enemy will not abandon its slanders about the country, the revolution, and the Islamic system because all they can do is propagandize against Islam and the revolution. Despite the enemy, you must appreciate the value of the great achievement of your revolution, Islam, and the Islamic and revolutionary system, and the path that the imam has put before our nation, the path of living with freedom, the path toward perfection, the path of constructing life in a form which pleases God and is according to Islam's orders—that is the true shape of life—and noncompromise with anti-Islamic powers. All of these constitute the lessons that 11 February has provided for us—a day which is the real day of celebration for our nation. [passage omitted]

We hope that God Almighty may bestow his ever-increasing blessings on our dear nation, so that this nation may be able to traverse the path of the imam right to the end, and so that our nation and our country may attain true freedom and spiritual perfection.

I would like to thank those brothers who are involved in organizing the celebrations for the 10 Days of Dawn. I would like to advise them to familiarize the people with the reality of that period through staging various good, meaningful, and intelligent programs. Also, we hope that the brothers in charge of prison affairs will behave well toward the prisoners and according to Islamic codes; and that they determine which prisoners are eligible for amnesty. God willing, the amnesty committee set up by his holiness the imam will carry out its great responsibilities with the same enthusiasm and steadfastness as before, so that they can identify those who deserve Islamic amnesty. May God bestow his blessings and benedictions on our nation, and include it in his material and spiritual blessings. Peace and blessings be upon you. [crowd chants "While Khamene'i is our leader, God's hand is above our heads"] [end recording]

Jannati Comments on '10 Days of Dawn' Ceremonies

LD2301202690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] The one-day session of officials—from all over the country—of the headquarters for the "10 Days of Dawn" celebrations convened this afternoon in the Marmar Hotel in Tehran. In this gathering Ayatollah Jannati, representative of the vice regent of the jurisconsult and head of the Islamic Publicity Organization, described the participation of people in the "10 Days of Dawn" ceremonies as a religious-national and popular duty. He also emphasized the importance of staging these ceremonies under the conditions of the demise of the Imam Khomeyni—may his dust be sanctified. Ayatollah Jannati referred to the point that the heights of the pure emotions of the Muslim people of Iran will be displayed during the 10 Days of Dawn, especially on the holy day of 22 Bahman [11 February] and said:

The ceremonies of the "10 Days of Dawn," every year and especially this year, should be staged in such a way as to demonstrate the refusal of the islamic revoluton to withdraw from its stances and also to demonstrate the all-around presence of the people in the arenas of the revolution. Ayatollah Jannati also stressed that the duties of the mass media and the headquarters for the "10 Days of Dawn" ceremonies regarding the propaganda programs of these 10 days are really crucial, adding: You should know that the propaganda [tablighat] of the "10 Days of Dawn" should not be an imposition on people, but, rather, should be a move toward strengthening and reviving the pure nature of the Muslim people of the world. In conclusion, the head of the Islamic Publicity Organization called on all strata of the people, especially the guilds, to actively participate in the "10 Days of Dawn" ceremonies.

On the basis of this report, the official in charge of the headquarters for the "10 Days of Dawn," Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, said in this gathering: The ceremonies honoring the 11th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution will begin beside the pure shrine of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified. He added that this year's programs will, in general, aim at greater varieties of presentation directed at elucidating the dimensions of the personality of Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be accepted in paradise.

Mohtashemi Criticizes USSR on Azerbaijan

LD2401183190 Tehran IRNA in English 1702 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 24, IRNA—Tehran University students held a mourning ceremony at the campus mosque today, in memory of Muslims killed in the Republic of Azerbaijan during clashes with Soviet troops.

The ceremony started with recitations from the Holy Koran, and later a statement was read, lashing out at Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev for ordering the attack against Muslim Azerbaijan.

The gathering heard ex-interior minister and newly-elected Majles Deputy Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, say that the way Mikhail Gorbachev has chosen for the treatment of Soviet Muslims, leads directly to the snare set by Washington.

Mohtashemi advised the Soviet leadership to rid itself of American traps.

The Soviet military intervention in Azerbaijan and the resulting death of civilians has shocked the Muslim world, and similar mourning ceremonies were held in several other Iranian cities, including Tabriz, Ardabil and Astara in Iran's East Azarbayjan Province.

Notes Naccache Hunger Strike, Torture

LD2501115690 Paris Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] In Tehran 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, a deputy for the city and former Iranian interior minister, is accusing France of torturing Anis Naccache. Naccache, who was sentenced to life imprisonment for the attempted attack on the shah's former prime minister, Shahpur Bakhtiar, an attack which caused two deaths in July 1980, has been on hunger strike since 8 September 1989. Akbar Mohtashemi, speaking at a ceremony of mourning in memory of the dead in Soviet-Azerbaijan, stated that France had made Anis Naccache lose half his body weight by torturing him in prison because he had defended Islam.

Velayati Urges Peaceful Solution in Azerbaijan

LD2401203890 Tehran IRNA in English 1908 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 24, IRNA—In a letter to Soviet Minister of Foreign Affairs Eduard Shevardnadze which was handed to his deputy Alexander Bessmertnykh in Moscow Wednesday [24 January] by the Iranian ambassador to Moscow Nasr Hayrani Nowbari, the Iranian foreign minister has expressed hope that the Soviets will be able to solve the situation in the Republic of Azerbaijan peacefully.

'Ali Akbar Velayati has also said in his letter to the Soviet official, that the Islamic Republic is concerned about the well- being of all Muslims throughout the world, but emphasized that Tehran is firmly committed to the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

The Iranian ambassador to Moscow told the Soviet deputy foreign minister today that the Western governments have hailed the Soviet government for having resorted to suppressive methods in Azerbaijan, simply because, in their judgment, this move will aggravate the situation in that republic to the disadvantage of the Soviets.

Nowbari said the Islamic Republic is ready and willing to host a Soviet delegation in Tehran for exchanging views on the situation in the Azerbaijan Republic.

IRNA Describes Nakhijevan, Baku TV Announcements

LD2501102290 Tehran IRNA in English 0845 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azerbaijan, Jan. 25, (IRNA)—Two Azeri- speaking Soviet reporters in a program aired by Nakhijevan Television Wednesday night [24 January] apologized to the public for having been forced to tell them lies for nearly forty years.

Addressing the world Muslims, they said: "We do not need weapons or financial aid but due to the existing state of suppression in Muslim-populated republics, we expect Muslim nations to convey our innocence to the world."

The reporters, referring to the pressure being exerted by the central government on the Muslims, called on international organisations to pay greater attention to the plight of the Soviet Muslims.

Ordinary programs have not yet been resumed by Nakhijevan Television and on Wednesday night only recitation of verses from the Holy Koran was aired while women announcers were wearing headscarves.

At 2300 hours Tehran time, when members of the Nakhijevan Popular Front were due to appear on the screen, the program was cut due to what an announcer referred to as "technical defect."

Women announcers in Baku Television have also been appearing on the screen with Islamic Hijab, since Tuesday night [23 January].

In another developoment, in an extraordinary meeting of the Soviet Azerbaijan Communist Party held in Baku Wednesday night, Iyaz Matlabev was appointed leader of the party for Azerbaijan.

He had previously served as prime minister of the republic, Radio Baku announced Thursday morning [25 January].

Meanwhile, in the aftermath of Soviet forces' attack on Baku and upon the request of the local people, branches of the communist party in Ganjehm, Shusha and Shaki, Azerbaijan Republic, were closed down.

Baku Television, received in Iran's East Azarbaijan city of Ardabil, Wednesday aired a report on a large gathering of people in Shaki who said they did not want the communist party and that they "will dissolve the party in Azerbaijan."

A spokesman for the gathering said: "We have never been communists. Our party is Allah (God), our religion is Islam, our book is Koran, and our qiblah is Ka'bah."

In the continuation of the arrival of Soviet Muslim Azeris in Iran, another group crossed the border Aras river and entered Iran through Jolfa on Wednesday.

The Soviet border guards have taken strict measures since the past two days to prevent gathering of the Soviet Muslim Azeris and their entry into Iran.

IRNA Discusses Western Coverage of Azerbaijan

LD2401121490 Tehran IRNA in English 1106 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] London, Jan, 24, IRNA—The Western media, although they have spoken millions of words every day, and have kept news coverage on Azerbaijan at a very high level in recent days, have deliberately chosen, or have been forced to choose, to ignore a number of important factors, which prove that the troubles were not begun by the Azeris, as the Western press on the whole claim, but by Armenians.

Two years ago, the Armenians requested a change in the boundaries surrounding the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh in Soviet Azerbaijan, which has belonged to the Republic of Azerbaijan for the last 70 years. They did what they could to disrupt the situation and provoke the Azerbaijani Muslims, who were forced to flee the area.

200,000 Muslim Azeris were forcibly removed from their homes in Armenia, taking refuge in Azerbaijan. This was the initial root cause of the present tragedy, which came to a head between these two neighbours in the last two weeks, even though they have lived side by side for centuries.

Western papers, which employ double-standards, especially when reporting on Muslim affairs generally and Muslim/non-Muslim relations particularly, ignored this fact. The Western media moaned about the plight of Armenians, in news reports, comments and documentaries, which were totally one-sided for over a week, while completely "forgetting" about the tragedies which have taken place in the Muslim community during this bloody conflict.

The only exception in English, as far as records show, was the INDEPENDENT which, perhaps reluctantly, on 20 January, mentioned the fact that two hundred thousand Azeri refugees from Armenia fled to Azerbaijan, causing much of the strife which sparked off the latest troubles. Of course, it was "unable" to write more than one sentence on this very important matter.

Muslims believe that as long as the Western media are controlled mostly by Zionist businessmen, one cannot expect any truly free flow of information in the world. The media in the West are reporting events in Azerbaijan in the same manner that they have reported events in Palestine for the last 40 years and some are even comparing the plight of Armenians to that of Jews.

When the distorted reporting of the Islamic Republic of Iran are taken into consideration as well, it becomes clear that Muslims have therefore suffered continually from the "free" press anti-Muslim propaganda for many decades. Now with the latest experience in Azerbaijan, the time has come for those Westernised Muslims, who for whatever reason believe in the "freedom" of the Western press, to seriously re-assess their views, seeing such clear distortions of reality on a daily basis.

In fact the press in the West appear to have one true freedom, which cannot be ignored, and that is to attack and insult Islam and Muslims, while constantly defending the enemies of the Muslim people.

Larijani Discusses Relations With USSR

NC1801164690 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 9 Jan 90 pp 1, 5

[Report by Irfan Parviz]

[Excerpts] Tehran—A leading Iranian statesman yesterday said that Imam Khomeyni's message to the Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev was "unique" and predicted that the current decade will witness the confrontation between two major schools of thought—"materialism and Divine ideology. [no closing quotation marks as published]

Dr Mohammad-Javad Larijani talking to the TEHRAN TIMES said that one year has passed since the late leader of the Islamic Revoluton and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran sent his historical message to Soviet leader.

"The real theme of the message of the Imam was that the life of materialism had ended," Dr Larijani said referring to the late Imam's message to Gorbachev early last year.

Imam Khomeyni who passed away on June 3 sent a letter to Soviet President Gorbachev in which he urged the Kremlin chief to study Islam as communism is at the end of its tether. [passage omitted]

Dr Larijani believes that the future decade will witness the confrontation betweem materialism and the Divine ideology.

He, however, believes that the Imam's message opens fresh avenues for reciprocal cooperation between Moscow and Tehran.

"For the first time the two countries have recently signed a major agreement for bilateral cooperation in diversified areas," he said referring to the accord signed by the two countries during the visit of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in June last year. Hashemi-Rafsajani, then speaker of the Majles, visited Soviet Union at the invitation of President Gorbachev.

"The message in fact changed the whole spectrum of the Irano-Soviet relations in political, economic and social relations," Dr Larijani said.

The impact of the Irano-Soviet ties is not limited to Tehran and Moscow, but will influence developments in the region and then elsewhere in the world as well.

Newspaper Assesses Former Afghan King's Role

LD2401093990 Tehran IRNA in English 0836 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan 24, IRNA—The two superpowers have somehow come to terms on Afghanistan with regards to the peculiar complexity of the crisis in recent months, an Iranian daily said Wednesday.

The TEHRAN TIMES added that it seemed the two had agreed to give a role to the former Afghan King Zahir Shah to play in the future of the country.

However with regard to the old age and health condition of the Zahir Shah, the daily said in its editorial, "The former king will not be able to go beyond playing a role as merely head of a transitional government."

Referrering to recent meetings of Zahir Shah with Italian President Francesco Cossiga in Rome and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze before the superpower summit meet in Malta, the daily said most observers believe that the impending discussions of the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and his Soviet counterpart in Moscow will also cover the Afghan issue.

"It is expected that the two sides will finalise the scenario agreeable to them on Afghanistan and the Zahir Shah's role," it said, adding that Zahir Shah was the "middle course" for superpowers to get out of the present deadlock.

Turning to the opposition of most Afghan mujahideen to the return of the former king, the daily showed doubt if their views would greatly effect the developments.

"The reason simply lies in the fact that in recent years the U.S. has gained enough footholds among the Pakistan-based mujahideen to pressurise any group that might challenge its views on Afghanistan."

Mentioning mujahideen's denial of U.S. having influence among them, the daily said "If it is true then confrontation looms over the mujahideen-U.S. relations in the near future."

Spokesman 'Deplores' Kashmir Bloodshed

LD2301185890 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan 23, IRNA—The Islamic Republic deplores the bloodshed in Kashmir, said a Foreign Ministry spokesman today.

Morteza Sarmadi expressed "profound regret" on behalf of Iranian and world Muslims over the tragic events in Indian-controlled Kashmir which led to the killing of a group of innocent Muslims.

Use of force and deployment of military forces against Kashmir's Muslim people by the Indian government is "unjustified" Sarmadi said, and noted that experience has shown such methods will fail.

The spokesman cautioned against the consequences of such brutal methods, and warned those responsible for the recent events that use of force and violence towards Muslims will have negative impact on the Muslim ummah as a whole.

Sarmadi, sympathizing with the relatives of those martyred in the recent events, expressed hope that farsightedness and respect for the rights of the people would have averted the tragic events.

Scientific, Military Agreement Signed With PRC

LD2101143790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Before noon today President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received the deputy head of China's Council of Science and Technology, who is visiting Iran at the head of a delegation. The Central News Unit says that the deputy head of China's Council of Science and Technology conveyed the warm greetings of his country's leaders to our country's president. Our country's minister of defense and and Armed Forces logistics was also at the meeting.

In a speech, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani reiterated the necessity to further expand bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction with China's cooperation in many fields. Concluding his remarks, the president issued the necessary instructions to expand bilateral relations.

On the basis of this report, a 10-year agreement between China and Iran on scientific cooperation and military technology exchange was signed. The agreement was signed by Mr Torkan, the minister of defense and armed forces logistics, and by the deputy head of China's Council of Science and Technology.

Va'ezi Leaves for Paris Talks on Financial Issues

NC2401063790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Mr. Va'ezi, deputy foreign minister for European and American affairs, left for Paris this morning at the head of a delegation to participate in the next round of talks on resolving financial issues between Iran and France.

According to the Central News Unit, this visit is a follow-up o the visit by Mr. Francois Scheer, the director general of the French Foreign Ministry, to Iran last month and is the fourth round of talks to have taken place in the past 4 months in Tehran and Paris.

Commentary on Global 'Islamization,' Hejab Issue

LD1201115590 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1636 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Excerpts] At a time when various ideologies based on materialism and apostasy are in the process of rapid decline due to their inability to provide solutions to basic

human needs, and the infinite crimes of those who lay claim to civilization, human rights, and democracy, have exasperated human societies, compelling mankind to search for solutions and ways of delivering themselves from the cesspool of corruption and tyranny emanating from the ignorance which is prevalent in the 20th century, the contemporary world is witnessing the dawning of a new era of faith, religious belief, and observance of divine and human values. This phenomenon which is apparent both in Islamic societies where the Muslims constitute the majority of the population, and those where the Muslims are in the minority, is expanding at a rapid pace, while possessing various dimensions. [passage omitted]

It is clear that the present trend of Islamization in various countries around the world, has portrayed the Muslims as a divisive political force on the social, political, and cultural scenes. Consequently, the ringleaders of the systems of global blasphemy have shown their concern over the rapid growth of this phenomenon—which poses a serious threat to their intended interest—by waging a surprise attack against divine and Islamic values. [passage omitted]

Among the various manifestations of Islamization is the tendency toward the observance of hejab by the Muslim women, which is a phenomenon from which global arrogance has never concealed its sensitivity and concern in the face of its growth.

There is the issue of France, the cradle of liberty and civilization, where the Muslim girls and women are coming under attack for preserving their Islamic covering and adhering to their religious values. To demonstrate the true identity of Western democracy, a number of that country's parliamentary representatives have been wearing headscarves to mock the sanctity of Islamic values. There is also Shah Hasan of Morocco who as a means of siding with Western conspiracies, has shamelessly denied women the issue of the obligation to observe Islamic covering. These are all indicative of their profound concern and fear of the phenomenon of Islamization—one of its clear manifestations being Islamic dress.

In any case, the growth of ths phenomenon and the reactions to it are not solely confined to the Islamic communities within European countries, for the revival of Islamization—which includes the observance of Islamic dress—enjoys greater dimensions. In Turkey, following the persistence of the Muslim women, specifically the students, in observing Islamic dress, at last the government of that country has agreed to abrogate the ban on the wearing of the hejab at the universities. In Algeria, Muslim women stage marches in which they chant "Islam is the only solution, and the hejab is our honor and pride." Undoubtedly, the daily growing phenomenon of the observance of Islamic dress is not exclusive to the few aforementioned countries, and is manifest in all Islamic societies as a clear manifestation of Islamization. It is due to the global dimensions of this phenomenon that the world's hegemonists have embarked on a battle against its growth and dissemination through masterminding a chain of conspiracies.

The observance of hejab consolidates the basic foundation of society, which is the family unit, and also creates a suitable climate for the women's active presence in social and political circles.

The Islamic revolution has taught Muslim women around the world that the observance of the Islamic hejab constitutes part of the defensive system of the world's Islamic countries, in the face of the West's cultural attack. Therefore, it is necesary that Muslim women should, more than ever before, equip themselves with that weapon, in the arena of combat with the enemies of Islam, and foil the cultural conspiracies waged by the global arrogance.

Majles Official Condemns UK Treatment of Students

LD2201184990 Tehran IRNA in English 1726 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 22. IRNA—Britain's biased and discriminatory treatment of Iranian students was harshly condemned at a political roundtable session held at Tehran University Monday.

Addressing the session, Majles Vice Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Asadollah Bayat underlined the importance of continuing the struggle against colonial powers of the world particularly the British racist regime whose nature he said would never change.

During the meeting, organized by the Union of Islamic Associations of University Students, Karen Abrinya, the student who was recently expelled from Britain, outlined the British Government and police brutality towards the Iranian students. The British police stormed the homes of five Iranian students in Manchester and London and arrested them in December, after British Muslims marked Dec. 15 as a day of solidarity against the blasphemous novel 'The Satanic Verses' authored by apostate Salman Rushdie.

On the same day, British Muslims held massive gatherings at Britain's 1,000 mosques, voicing support for late Imam Khomeyni's fatwa, religious decree, calling for the killing of the apostate author for its blatant insults against Islam and Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him). Islam carries death penalty for apostacy.

Memorandum of Understanding Signed With Austria

LD1601192690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Following the successful negotiations between Iran and Austria, a memorandum of understanding was signed today between the two countries in Tehran. According to the IRNA report, memorandum notes the two sides have stressed expanding commercial ties, while expressing their readiness for industrial cooperation.

During the memorandum signing ceremony the Austrian deputy of the state economics and transport ministry [as heard] stressed his country is prepared to contribute to Iran's reconstruction and to its economic development.

In turn, the deputy to our country's industries minister pointed to the successful visit to Iran by the Austrian delegation. He expressed the hope that the negotiations may serve as a starting point for expanding relations at all levels, and that the two sides fully implement the agreements.

Velayati Receives Message From Omani Counterpart

LD2301184590 Tehran IRNA in English 1642 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 23, IRNA—Omani ambassador to Tehran met with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here today and handed him a message from his Omani counterpart Yusuf Bin-al-Alawi 'Abdallah.

The ambassador, 'Abd-al-'Alim Bin-Mustahil Rakhyut, also presented a report on the recent summit of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council, and stressed the importance of cooperation between the regional countries.

Terming Tehran-Muscat ties 'friendly' Velayati in reply expressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's willingness for mutual cooperation with the regional countries. Bilateral ties were also reviewed in the meeting.

Velayati Speaks to Iraqi Opposition Forces

LD1701132190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] This morning Foreign Minister Velayati, spoke at a gathering of Iraqi opposition forces gathered at Tehran University on the occasion of the anniversary of the martyrdom of Hojjat ol-Eslam Sayyed Mahdi Hakim.

Mr Velayati expressed condolences for the martyrdom of that divinities scholar and said: the anniversary of the martyrdom of that indefatigable struggler, which has rightfully been called the day of Iraqi opposition, must be a beginning of the battle to break the world's silence on the violation of human rights and the humanitarian and Islamic rights of your nation. Referring to the victorious struggles of the noble Iranian nation, under the leadership of his eminence Imam Khomeyni—may his noble dust be sanctified—he said: the path of jihad and the battle of Muslim nations against arrogance continues, and that path demands the selflessness of believers and the resolve and will of faithful travelers.

Mr Velayati stressed that nothing that is inhuman and imposed can last and that it will collapse sooner or later through the people's efforts. Noting that that fact is undoubtedly an omen for the victory of dear Islam and a sign of the fulfillment of divine promise, he said: Today, the world is aware of the depth of the sufferings and tragedy which afflicts you because everyone has heard of the ruined towns, the terrifying prisons, the tortures, the massacres, and the Halabjahs. You are, therefore, the manifestation of the cruelty and oppression which has been inflicted on your nation and, as long as you remain steadfast, there will be people who will assist you; you must win your rights.

The foreign minister honored the struggles and justice-seeking battles of the Islamic nation of Iraq and prayed for the ever-increasing success of the fighting opposition forces toward the attainment of their lofty aims in the light of unity, solidarity, and Islamic brotherhood.

Velayati Addresses Iraqi Muslims Congress

LD1701175290 Tehran IRNA in English 1633 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 17, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today officiated at the one-day congress of Iraqi Muslims on the second anniversary of the martyrdom of 'Allamah Seyyed-Mehdi Hakim, who was gunned down by Ba'thist agents in the Sudanese capital Khartoum.

The congress sponsored by the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI), was among others attended by delegates of the 'ulema of Jabal al-Amel of Lebanon, the nine party coalition of Afghanistan, Hizbollah of Hijaz, Hizbollah of Lebanon, and the Islamic Revolution Organization of the Arabian Peninsula.

In his address, the foreign minister said that the struggle of Muslim people against the supercilious world powers continues. He called on all mujahideen to hold out in their struggle against oppressive rules and not to settle for anything short of their just demands.

The present age is that of the rule of world peoples and will mark the end of imposed regimes, he added.

Velayati also said that the world peoples now know the oppressive practices of the ruling Ba'thist regime in Iraq and the injustice done to the Muslims of that country. He said the day of the Iraqi Muslims should mark a prelude to an international campaign for breaking the silence of world governments in the face of the shabby status of the human rights in Ba'thist Iraq.

The congress concludes its meetings here today.

TEHRAN TIMES on Saddam's 'Peace Overture'

NC1801175290 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 10 Jan 90 p 7

[Akhundzadeh Basti commentary: "Same Guy's Old Games']

[Text] After months of intransigent and mulish policy, the Iraqi rulers once again are resorting to their obsolete and outmoded tactics of political puffery.

Indeed with the acceptance of the Security Council Resolution 598 by Iran—nearly 16 months ago the regime in Baghdad behaves in a paradoxical way.

So far, by adopting bullheaded policy they have frustrated all genius efforts made by the Secretary General of United Nations and his envoy in implementing Resolution 598.

There are two reasons why Saddam has come up with certain peace overture and that on the occasion of Army Day and in presence of certain Arab military and non-military dignitaries.

1-To throw the ball on Iranian court, in effect to redress the subtle and sensible proposal made by Iran—simultaneous release of all POWs and withdrawal of the forces to internationally recognized borders.

2-To heed the regional and international pressures.

It has been reported that, Saddam Husayn was unhappy at the outcome of the recent gathering of heads of PGCC [Persian Gulf Cooperation Council] that took place in Oman.

With the recent changes and developments in international and regional affairs, it has also been reported that the Arab regimes, particularly in the Persian Gulf region are no more ready to follow blindly the intimidating policy of the Iraqi dictators.

It seems that the fall of dictators in different parts of the world made them plucky.

Whatever be the intention of the regime in Baghdad one thing is certain: Any proposal should be within the context-frame and sequence of the Resolution 598.

Islamic Republic of Iran has so far moved in accordance with the text of the resolution.

It would be prudent for the Iraqis to abandon old ploy and respect international undertakings. Iran should continue her subtle and genius policy.

There are only two options for them: Accept Resolution 598 in practice or face international condemnation.

Tehran Radio on Iraq's Continued Procrastination

NC1601100290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0640 GMT 16 Jan 90

[From the "Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Program" in the "Voice of the Front" feature]

[Text] The Iraqi Ba'thist regime has made efforts to renege on the full implementation of Resolution 598; it has massive debts; and extensive losses and damage were inflicted on the country and the people of Iraq. As a result of all this, the regime is trying to avoid taking an overt and definite stance. By raising various unprincipled and illusory issues and proposals, it is endeavoring to postpone the implementation of the substance of the resolution.

When we assess this continued policy, we can, in pinpointing the reasons for it—other than those mentioned—include the support of most of the members of the UN Security Council for the Baghdad rulers. Even though this phenomenon has waxed and waned in recent years, it can be said, in general, that the Baghdad leaders have enjoyed the firm support of most international circles and associations and continue their baseless and harmful obstructionism with their blessing.

As an example, we may cite the Iraqi stance at the time of the acceptance of Resolution 598, on the basis of which a cease-fire of sorts was implemented on the fronts. At that time, Iraq announced that it considered the text of the resolution to be an indivisible whole. The Iraqi Government agreed to the stipulation in paragraph one of the resolution without any modification; that is, that withdrawal should take place not more than 10 days after the date of the cease-fire, or, in other cases, as soon as possible, and without any delay, as dictated by the substance of Resolution 598.

It is interesting that at the time of its acceptance of the resolution, Iraq did not refer to any border issues. This means that it had accepted the 1975 Algiers accord as valid and unalterable, and desired that the forces should withdraw to the borders which had been officially recognized by the two countries. After a lapse of 1 and ½ years since the cease-fire, this principle has been subjected to various analyses, justifications, and interpretations.

It is the responsibility of the UN Security Council and other international organizations to change their attitude to and confront the rulers of Baghdad as a regime which has endangered the peace and security of the world. They should also utilize various ways, instruments, and tactics to make the Iraqi rulers refrain from continuing their improper actions and to guide them toward the establishment of a comprehensive and durable peace.

Editorial on 'Arafat's Role in Lebanese Clashes

NC1801183590 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 10 Jan 90 p 2

[Editorial: "'Arafat Clique, Eventual Winner of Lebanon Clashes"]

[Text] Amal-Hizballah clashes in south Lebanon near the Palestinian camps are helping 'Arafat sympathizers to assume a deterring role to rebuff threats to Israel's southern borders.

The vicious circle of clashes looming over south Lebanon Shiite forces and the recurrence of the infighting has convinced many in the war-torn country tha these clashes are there to linger on.

As such vested interests in the area have based their calculations on the persistence of these clashes, at least for the next two years, taking them as fertile ground for their back-door dealings with Israel.

Following the exit from Beirut of 'Arafat forces in 1982 and in the wake of Tripoli events these forces were severely isolated from the politico-military scenes in Lebanon.

The steamrolling of 'Arafat's supporters later continued by Amal and Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] forces which tightened the screw on 'Arafat loyalists to the point that they had to withdraw to their present positions in north and east of Sidon.

The 'Arafat forces in that part of Lebanon had to accept their isolation without being able to do much to shift the balance. But the present Amal-Hizballah clashes over positions in the south have provided 'Arafat loyalists with the chance to emerge out of their politico-military isolation.

These forces are now preparing the grounds, cashing in on Shiite infightings, to find a foothold in south Lebanon again and return to their former positions. They of course have a good reason to do that. Once attacks on Israel's southern borders are curbed or minimized for any reason with 'Arafat forces deployed in the area, they can claim the credit for acting as a rebuffing factor preventing attacks on the Zionist state.

Now when the scenario is complete 'Arafat will be able to employ its deterring role as a bargaining chip in his negotiations with Tel Aviv. So the very regrettable infighting between Shiite factions will only help 'Arafat forces along assuming a rebuffing role to carry favor with Israel.

The most saddening part of the Amal-Hizballh clashes is then perhaps the fact that in the absence of a committed fighting force to battle the Zionist regime, those after compromising with Tel Aviv will be boosted in their submissive positions.

The present Shiite clashes, which resumed yesterday after the short lull, will only provide the platform to 'Arafat and his compromising clique to once again come into play in Lebanon's political equations to sit in a submissive position at the negotiating table with Israel.

Commentary Views Al-Hirawi's Visit to Syria

LD2201142190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Ilyas al-Hirawi, the prime minister of Lebanon, has arrived in Syria. This is his first foreign visit since he assumed power on 24 November. [passage omitted]

Ilyas al-Hirawi's visit to Damascus occurs at a time when he has still not succeeded in exerting his government's control over the whole of the Lebanese territory, as his long-time adversary, Michele 'Awn is still ruling East Beirut. Moreover, the cabinet headed by Salim al-Huss has failed to attain the necessary cohesion, and at least two of the Christian ministers, one of whom is George Sa'adah, the head of the Phalangist party, have abstained from participating.

In addition to the internal clashes, the expansion of the Palestinian presence in southern Lebanon, the continued occupation of part of that country by Israel, and the fading of international interest in the implementation of the al-Ta'if accord, are among the most important factors behind the inability of Ilyas al-Hirawi's government to expand its power. Even though this agreement and the Lebanese prime minister are officially recognized by the world's major powers, which play an influential role in Lebanon's political scene, France and the Vatican nevertheless still continue their covert support for Lebanon, and the U.S. government is also against any military intervention by al-Hirawi which might lead to the removal of Michele 'Awn. Such conditions have provided the mutinous general with the perfect opportunity to continue his solitary hold to power in East Beirut.

Although the al-Ta'if accord was proposed by the tripartite Arab Committee and the Arab Union, nevertheless, the majority of Arab governments have lost their initial interest in its full implementation. Instead they have made its implementation subject to a number of political developments among themselves. This delay has halted the tripartite committee from taking the necessary steps, instead it is making random moves to save the project from destruction, since the defeat of that committee's task in pleasing the interested sides and implementation of the Ta'if project could spell defeat for the Arab Union. If such an event occurs, then Michele 'Awn and the right wing Christians would assume so much power that their removal would be impossible. [passage omitted]

Egyptian Reaction to Islamic Movement Viewed

NC2101131990 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 15 Jan 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Islamic Movement Is Cornering the Egyptian Regime"]

[Text] A new policy seems to be in the making in Egypt as far as the government's highhandedness and strong-arm tactics in dealing with the growing Islamic movement is concerned. Saturday's [13 January] sacking of Interior Minister Zaki Badr and his replacement by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa should be seen in this light.

This substitution has most probably been made of a consideration that necessitates for the Cairo regime to reassess its approach to the problem of revolutionary Muslim uprising in that country.

Having a rather vast experience in dealing with the Islamic movement in Asyut the new interior minister is expected to change the course of policy toward the Islamic opposition. He has gained his experience in the field during the years he served as governor of Asyut, a strong bastion of Islamic movement in the country.

Given his background the new minister seems to have been convinced by now that direct confrontation with the Islamic movement will not at all curb or even weaken the upsurge. Rather a rough handling of the movement will only contribute to its political intricacy pushing it towards underground activities with the sole objective of toppling the regime.

By the way the recent sweeping international changes have already left their impact on regional governments in this part of the world particularly the Mideastern Arab regimes. It is most probable that under the influence of new world developments these regimes will, willy nilly, opt for some sort of open, yet controlled, political atmosphere. The powerful emergence of the Ikhwan al-Muslimin [Muslim Brotherhood] in Jordan too should be viewed from such perspective.

Egypt following the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979, suddenly found itself faced with a new and vigorous wave of Islamic opposition that wasted no time in going for a revolutionary execution of former president al-Sadat in 1980.

Now after almost a decade of battle with this powerful movement the regime in Cairo has arrived at this roundup that it may be able to gain more by granting certain limited freedoms to Islamic activists.

The regime has resorted to this new tactic only to establish some control even if it means relative and limited, over the restive Islamic forces in the country.

Zaki Badr's sacking and Musa's appointment in his stead bespeak of such considerations. In other words it is now the Islamic movement that has cornered the regime forcing it to change its policies.

Response to Human Rights Official's Visit Viewed

LD2301215490 Tehran IRNA in English 1842 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan 23, IRNA—Following the visit to Tehran of U.N. Human Rights Investigator Reynaldo Galindo Pohl, a group of families of some of those jailed for committing numerous acts of terrorism, gathered in front of the U.N. office today, demanding a meeting with Pohl.

Similarly a group of other families whose loved ones have been assassinated by Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) outlaws were also present outside the U.N. office calling for a meeting with Pohl to reveal crimes committed by the terrorists grouplet.

Pohl, a Salvadorean lawyer, arrived here on January 21 to probe allegations of human rights abuses in Iran.

Meanwhile, repentant MKO members, already released, signed a scroll and hanged it on the outer wall of the U.N. office denying all allegations of torture in Iran and confessing that their involvement in armed activities aimed at toppling the Islamic Republic had accounted for their arrest.

A seven-member family carrying pictures of two members martyred in MKO terrorist actions tried to meet Pohl but did not succeed.

The gatherings dispersed at dusk.

The U.N. human rights investigator will stay in Iran until January 28.

Aqazadeh Comments on Oil Ministry Projects

NC1801183690 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 13 Jan 90 p 2

[Report by M. Sitayesh]

[Text] Tehran—The Oil Ministry will be allowed to make an investment up to $3.2 billion on the Pars gas reservoir situated between Iran and Qatar, the oil minister said.

In an exclusive interview with the TEHRAN TIMES, Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh added that the Oil Ministry will not take loans from any foreign countries.

Concerning other projects, Aqazadeh said that the Kangan gas project in southern Iran will come on stream next month, with a capacity of 80 million cubic meters. During the first phase the project will have a capacity of 35 million cubic meters per day.

Among other projects to be utilized soon is the methanol project, with a capacity of 84,000 tons per year, 40,000 tons of which will be for domestic consumption and the rest for export.

The minister said the Five-Year Plan allows the Oil Ministry to make an investment of up to $3.2 billion on the Pars gas reservoir located between Iran and Qatar and an investment of $2.2 billion for new petrochemical units. International tenders have already been placed for these new projects. After these projects are utilized new investments will be made from the sales of their products.

Aqazadeh also revealed that the Five-Year Plan allows the Oil Ministry to invest $8.4 billion in the oil sector and $1.8 billion in the petrochemical sector. Some of the petrochemical projects have been placed on tender and a number of consortiums have announced their readiness to participate. He said joint investments will take place in these projects.

Aqazadeh said the Islamic Republic is at present negotiating for the sale of natural gas to Yugoslavia, Bulgaria,

Czechoslovakia and Romania and moreover it will start selling natural gas to the Soviet Union.

"The next Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) meeting will be held in March in Vienna in which oil prices for the second quarter (April, May, June) will be decided upon," he said.

Aqazadeh expessed hope that the present stability in oil prices will continue and added that this stability depends on the future conduct of member countries.

Khark Island Airport Reopens After Reconstruction

LD1601184190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] The speed of development and reconstruction works on Khark Island's airport runway means that the airport is now ready for Boeing airplanes to land. According to a Central News Unit report, the development and improvement of Khark Island's airport facilities were carried out by the regional oil company of the Khark area, at a cost exceeding 1 billion rials. The operations have now been complete and this morning, with the landing of a passenger airliner, the airport was reopened.

Interior Minister Nuri Details Antidrugs Efforts

LD2201180190 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] On the anniversary of the establishment of the headquarters for combating narcotics, Interior Minister Nuri, in an interview today with our reporter, while describing this headquarter's activities, spoke on the stationing of special battalions at various crossing points on the country's borders. He emphasized that outlaws and smugglers will be decisively confronted. He said: The quantity of the narcotics recently discovered is a sign of the efforts being made by the forces of the gendarmerie, Islamic Revolution Committees, Army Aviation Force and other institutions involved.

Referring to the talks with officials from Pakistan and Turkey about extending the anti-narcotics fight, and the requisite protocols signed with these, the interior minister expressed the hope that further successes will be achieved in extensively combating narcotics with the cooperation of these countries. The interior minister added: Some countries, such as the United States, are using the anti-narcotics fight as a propaganda cover to achieve their objectives. He stressed that the fight against traffickers will continue and there will not be the slightest complacency about this. He announced that addicts will be treated with Islamic mercy and said explicitly: Continuous effort and decisive combat against narcotics adventurers can only be effective with assistance from all the people.

Interior Minister Nuri added:

[Begin Nuri recording] Narcotics can destroy everything in a country. Perhaps there is a serious plan in this connection [as heard]—the enemy enters through tricks and through carrying out plans that one may not at first be aware of, then the enemy hooks a family, women and men of a nation to such an extent that a generation may be lost. And the system... [changes thought] I think that if this consistent effort being made by the Islamic Republic Government, as well as the decisive fight by the judicial and legislative branches in this connection meet with this nation's cooperation, and if families and young persons themselves pay attention to the harm and problems of this matter, then, God willing, in the not too distant future—through collaboration with neighboring countries—we may be able to stop this dangerous element of corruption, to a large extent. [end recording]

Anti-Narcotics Official on Successful Operations

LD2001135990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] With the dismantling of three major narcotics-distributing rings in Bakhtaran, Zahedan, and Mazanderan, over 3,430 kg of various kinds of narcotics were uncovered. Mirlohi, the deputy commander of the Islamic Revolution Committee, in an exclusive interview today with our correspondent Avabi, made the following remarks:

[Begin Mirlohi recording] In the Name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Recently, we have identified and demolished three rings. The one in Bakhtaran Province was active in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey; they brought quantities of opium and morphine into the country and distributed them. The total quantity, according to their confessions, was 6,800 kgs—1,830 kgs of which have recently been uncovered and handed over to us by the brothers. So far, 22 leaders of the rings, have been identified and arrested, from whom 14 guns, [word indistinct], and 9 vehicles were seized. One of our dear guards was unfortunately awarded the high rank of martyrdom while lying in ambush inside a house. Another ring was demolished in Zahedan, where 1,430 kgs of opium, heroin, hashish and opium residue were found, in addition to dozens of weapons, which included 358 boxs of "DShK" bullets—85 per box—30 boxes of (?anti-air) bullets, 77 type-107 rockets, 82 assorted bombs, 18 grenades, and 3 radio sets. Another ring was uncovered and demolished by our dear guards in Mazanderan, where 172 kgs of narcotics were found and 9 members of the ring were arrested.

In total, on the anniversary of the beginning of the new law, through God's mercy, our brothers have succeeded in inflicting a heavy blow against the international narcotics rings. [end recording]

The deputy commander of the Islamic Revolution Committee went on to elaborate on the achievements, on the anniversary of the implementation of the new anti-narcotics law, saying that since last January 277 narcotics networks and 25 international narcotics smugglers

have been put out of business throughout the country, thanks to the efforts of the guards of the Islamic Revolution Committee, and over 19,124 smugglers have been arrested, in connection with which 34,304 kgs of various narcotics were seized by the guards.

Referring to the Zafar maneuver, which is to begin tomorrow, he expressed hope that the people would be as helpful as last year in supplying the narcotics squad with information.

IRGC, Navy Hold First Joint Training Course

LD2301133190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Niku'iyan, Central News Unit correspondent, reports on the participation of students of the technical sciences college of the Navy of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and students of the naval sciences college of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in a joint naval training course. We draw your attention to this report:

[Niku'iyan] In the first joint naval training course of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Navy of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], a group of students from these two forces set off from Bandar-e 'Abbas this morning for international waters. In this naval training course, students of the IRGC Navy's technical sciences college together with students of the Armed Forces' Naval Sciences College will, in the course of 60 days of navigation and hoisting of the pride-inspiring flag of our country in international waters, undergo the final part of their training courses in command, captaincy, technical, operational, and electronics management, under the supervision of commanders, specialists, and experienced teachers of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to this report, these students will receive specialized operational training in three naval vessels and they will also become skilled in the fields of navigation, multiunit maneuvers, refuelling, and marine transportation as well as military formations.

Column Views Qom Campaign To Undermine Unity

NC2001113990 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 11 Jan 90 p 1

[From the "Weekly Political Analysis" column]

[Text] "The supreme jurisconsult is a shining point in the evolution of the Islamic Republic of Iran's system and a valuable and unforgettable legacy of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni." The leader of the Islamic revolution stated this in an address to the Majles deputies and the mature, combatant Iranian nation and added: "Today, the protection of the unity of the nation's ranks is the duty of all those whose hearts love Islam and the country's independence."

In stating the above, the leader of the revolution pointed out two fundamental bases for guaranteeing the strength and continuation of the revolution. The supreme jurisconsult and the unity of the nation's ranks are two elements that have tempered the revolution in the crucible of debilitating events and have secured the prestige of the system under the most difficult circumstances.

Some suspicious hands have been at work to undermine the unity of society in a campaign launched from Qom. The simple-minded ones have not been immune to these attempts to sow doubt, and continue to accept these superficial and simplistic ideas.

The thoughts of the simple-minded ones do not matter, but one cannot ignore them if the reflection of these thoughts in any way harms the unity of ranks in society. The reaction of the combatant residents of Qom, who have always been pioneers of the revolution, confirms this statement.

In his remarks, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i termed Qom the center of Islam and the revolution and referred to the seminary as a divine asset of Islam that nurtured individuals to steer the revolution and the nation. He compared Qom to a tumultuous sea in which all opposing trends can be dissolved.

The fact is that Qom is symbolic as the frontline stronghold for combat against the adversaries of Islam and the Islamic movement, and the preservation of its nobility and pioneering status with all the qualities this entails is a vital necessity. The people have acquitted themselves well in their mission so far, but it is imperative that the officials also continuously carry out their duties and act categorically so the unity of the society and the progress of the revolution are not sacrificed to trivial and peripheral issues.

Transportation Minister on Credit Allocations

NC1801093690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Recorded telephone report by Central News Unit correspondent in Bandar-e 'Abbas]

[Text] Mr Sa'idi-Kya, minister of roads and transportation, speaking about the Baft-Bandar-e 'Abbas railway, said this network will be able to increase the volume of cargo carried by the national rail network by 16 million tonnes. He said that by the end of this year [year ending 20 March 1990], the Sirjan railway is to be linked to the national rail network. He added that under agreements that have been signed, the special Iran-Turkey railway which is being jointly built by the Iranian and Turkish Governments will become operational during the next 6 months. He added that some passengers travelling from the Islamic Republic of Iran to European countries and Syria will be able to use this railway.

Mr Sa'idi-Kya stated that during the next 2 months the construction of a highway linking Qazvin and Zanjan is

to begin operations, with investment provided by the National Bank of Iran, and that in continuation of this program several other highways are to be constructed.

The minister of roads and transportation, during his interview, added that the completion of (?coastal) and special installations of the immense Martyr Raja'i port is among the plans relating to the country's ports which are being seriously followed up. Referring to the allocation of 360 billion rials of credit for the improvement of the country's existing railway network and of 530 billion rials for road construction and maintenance, he expressed hopes that 1369 [year beginning 21 March 1990] will be the year during which extensive and successful plans in these fields will be implemented.

This is the Central News Unit correspondent in Bandar-e 'Abbas.

Central Bank Governor on New Exchange Facilities

NC1801171190 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 2 Jan 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Government Should Boost Export-Oriented Economy"]

[Text] The yesterday's announcement of the Central Bank Governor Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli on new exchange facilities for industrial goods exporters and importers once again underscored the firm stance of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government to uplift the nation's productive and export ability.

Once pursued diligently and over a long-time basis, this economic policy will almost certainly help pull down inflation, create jobs and enhance the country's productive capability.

The gulf that exists between our export and import quantities, i.e., the imbalance in the nation's sheet of payments, has to be filled soon before it faces the country with yet further economic problems.

This imbalance however is not exclusive to import-export sector. There is a chain of causes and effects whose bearing can be felt on every sector of the economy. In short what the Iranian economy is suffering most from is this issue of persistent imbalance in a large portion of its economy.

There is an imbalance between the government's income and expenditure, hence the deficit that has been a feature of the Iranian budget in recent years. There is also an imbalance on the monetary supply and demand process. This is of course a result of a rather constant increase in the dormant cash flow, the idle capital, that cannot be absorbed by economic sectors and productive lines of activity due to certain economic policies of the government in the past. This has caused many capital owners to invest in non- productive activities which provide economic benefits through a non-healthy mechanism such as acting as middlemen without truly contributing to national production at all.

The existing imbalance in the labor sector of the country too must be looked upon in the same light. Non-productive activities which plague the economy with the existence of a huge amount of idle cash flow in the private sector and which curb the creation of new jobs are mainly responsible for the idleness of a rather sizable portion of the nation's workforce.

What can the government do to assist this ailing economy? The main boost will come when the government adamently pursues a policy of encouraging investors to use their capital in productive activities.

The absorption of dormant capital making the rounds of the private sector should be given priority by the government.

Channelizing huge amount from services and commercial sectors towards production will help curb inflation, boost supply versus demand, create jobs and promote non-oil products and exports of the nation.

Combined together, improvements in these basic lines of economy will help the nation to develop its economy along what has helped many newly industrialized countries to find a cure to their erstwhile ailing economies.

An export-oriented economy seems to be the answer to many Third World economic ills.

The yesterday's announcement of the Central Bank governor on providing facilities that can assist along the shaping up of an export-based economy should be welcomed.

Cabinet Approves Easing of Export Guarantee Law

PM1901091590 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 4 Dec 89 p 3

[Text] At yesterday's cabinet meeting, chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the commerce minister's proposal on allowing a section of the country's handicrafts' industry to be exempt from the need for currency guarantees was approved.

According to an IRNA report there are some 16 items covered by this exemption including all types of ceramics, painted glass, traditional bast shoes, embroidery, hand-woven materials, copper goods, decorated bronze items, enamelwork, and various types of paintings.

At the same meeting the Ministry of Mines and Metals proposed that 33 types of nonmetallic minerals also be exempt from the currency restrictions and that 15 other types of nonmetallic minerals receive a 50 percent discount on this duty. These proposals were approved by the cabinet.

According to this report, some of the minerals which come under the full exemption include (barit) powder, (neptunit) powder, heating coal, sand., gravel, sea salt, chemical salt, plaster, and chalk. On the list of 15 items which can benefit from a 60 percent reduction in the guarantees are marble, (marmarit), (barid), (vakup), and various types of white and colored travertine. In cases where there is a full exemption, there will be a tax of 500 rials per tonne exported.

This same report indicates that the proposal by the minister of heavy industry to provide more facilities to encourage an increase in the export of heavy industrial goods was accepted. According to this proposal, the exporters of heavy industrial goods have to provide only 50 to 100 percent of the total amount of currency directly embodied in their products. [sentence as published] The types of goods in this category will be decided by the Ministry of Heavy Industry and the Central Bank will clear the currency guarantees in rials in accordance with the currency value of the items.

Members of the Supreme Council of Mines were also chosen at this session, and their election was approved by the cabinet.

Nationalized Companies To Raise Market Cash

PM1101151590 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 30 Nov 89 p 20

[Text] Factories and production companies that are profitable for the government have announced their readiness to attract the huge cash flow in the hands of the people and to get this large amount of money involved in production work. This policy was decided in the Economic Council as a means of improving the economic structure of the country. Even those people with small savings can buy shares in these factories and companies and thereby benefit from their profits.

At present the Iran National Investment Company has 15,079.3 million rials invested in 136 production units. Of these, 51 factories and companies that are profitable have been accepted by the stock market at an investment of 7,709.7 million rials. According to this report the government has guaranteed the investment and profit of those who wish to invest in these companies, and it supports such investors.

Reports in the mass media revealing the activity of public companies and their direct involvement in activity as middle-men caused the people to rush to such establishments to withdraw their money, to stop the actions of the middle-men which was in turn causing inflation in society. When the people took out their investments, it caused the officials at the stock exchange to start up the institution once again to attract the peoples' cash to as to raise the levels of production.

According to this report the workers and investors of 60 production and commercial companies which have been accepted by the stock exchange can engage in the buying and selling of stocks 3 days a week—Saturday, Monday and Wednesday, from 10 in the morning. In this way, even the people's smallest savings will be involved in production work. One must note at this time that only those companies which are in good shape as far as management, profitability and their general financial situation are concerned are accepted into the stock exchange. In this connection, the representative of the stock exchange has direct supervision of companies' work in support of investors, and in this way it can be said that the government controls their actions.

It is also possible to turn stocks into instant money. If an investor wants to turn his shares into cash, he can do so in the shortest possible time and with no problems. All he has to do is to go to the stock exchange and fill out a form to buy bonds and fill out another form to hand over his shares. It should be noted that the administrative fee for exchanging shares is 0.5 percent of the entire transaction, which in effect is a very small sum.

It is also worth mentioning that eight employees of the stock exchange are representatives of Tejarat, Sepah, Saderat, San'at va Ma'dan, Keshavarzi, Melli, Mellat, and the National Investment Company, who will all be present on the exchange day on the stock market floor.

According to reports filed by our correspondents at the stock exchange, these shares have been bought and sold during the past few days: Shares worth 1,000 rials of the Mazandaran Weaving Company at 1.320 rials; shares worth 1,000 rials of the National Investment Company at 1,310 rials; shares worth 1,000 rials of the Yazd Weaving Company at 4,561 rials; shares worth 1,000 rials of the Sharq cement factory at 3,000 rials; shares worth 5,000 rials of the Kashan Weaving Company at 24,000 rials; shares worth 500 rials of the Qazvin glass factory at 2,315 rials; shares worth 1,000 rials of the Shirin agro-industrial complex of Khorasan 3,500 rials; shares worth 1,000 rials of the Aman industrial complex at 1,700 rials; shares worth 1,000 rials of the Alborz Investment Company at 6,550 rials; and shares worth 1,000 rials of the Sasan Company at 4,420 rials.

According to this same report shares in the following companies are ready to be sold: Ecohatk, Ama Industrial, Atmosphere Industrial, Iran Razor Productions, Gorji Biscuits, Pars fodder, Bisotun Sugar, Marvdasht Sugar, Naqsh-e Jahan Sugar, Neyshabur Sugar, Pak Pasteurized Dairy, Pars Vegetable Oil, Pars Minu Industrial, Iran Merinus Wool, Behshahr Cotton, Rey Weaving, Kashan Weaving, Mazandaran Weaving, Yazd Weaving, Iran Cycles, Iran Cartons, Pars Electric, Pars Ceremic, Shahin Plastics, Pars Battery, Qazvin Glass, Ala'aeddin of Iran, Absal-Arj factory, and the Bahman Production Company.

Following the expression of an idea that taking money out of public companies means taking money out of the banking system, one expert at the Melli Bank said: This is not logical at all. Most of the financial exchanges are done with checks, and those who have money invested in

public companies have more than 5 million rials, so it is not safe to turn this sum into cash to keep at home or in a store. This is why the investor draws a check when putting into or taking money out of a public company, so it is just a matter of transferring money from one bank to another.

Even those people who have a small capital and, for example, turn their 1 million-rial check into cash—even that sum goes into the banking system through other means. There are very, very few people who accept the risk and take their money out of the banking system to keep it in a less secure place.

The newspaper ETTELA'AT wrote in yesterday's editorial: Of course it is important to reveal those real actions which are truly destructive, and because they show pitfalls it is also a religious duty. But more than that is the effort to present plans and to undertake constructive actions which can show the way, to direct small and large investors, toward the direction of production in the country. So any company that is truly engaged in honest work should not be afraid of government investigations.

The ETTELA'AT editorial went on to say: The government sees its duty in making the country's production outlets profitable, and this is an important duty. The press and the mass media have carried out the first part of their duty by revealing the dangers of the deviant intermediary activity of the public companies that exist now, which causes inflation. Now it is up to them to carry out the second part of their duty, which is to show sensitivity toward financial and production activity in factories, companies, the bazaar, and the villages, and that is the case to a large extent. The Islamic Republic's Government and the country's economic planners must research the issue more and more, so as to announce to the public plans and proposals that will attract small and large investments. This way, if there is deviant, destructive, or unproductive activity, that would rightly be revealed and the legitimate factories would remain secure.

The editorial continued: What is important with regard to many of the public companies is primarily their intermediary type of work, which causes inflation and is very destructive. This is done under the guise of production and alongside production. That is when suspicious profits are gained. In reality such firms pour thousands of rials in profits into the pockets of the public investors with one hand while they drag from the same people with their other hand thousands of rials through inflation, high prices, and shortages. They give 40 rials in profits and add the equivalent of 100 rials to inflation.

Therefore confrontations from the mass media and judicial and legal circles are useful but not enough, and they do not solve the problem. The production sector must be made truly profitable. If we all think together and we all act together, it is not impossible to achieve this.

One of our readers today called the newspaper to thank the staff for the series of articles on public companies and complained that only certain companies were discussed. The reader said companies such as Pishgaman, Golbiz, Mah-afarin, Hushmand Motors, Tehran Supervision, Mosbat Electrobar, Mosharekat-e Shama-e Iran, Golshir, and dozens of other companies do not give their addresses but only their telephone numbers in advertisements. Under the headings of "production" or "construction" they carry out their activity to attract loose cash in the country. The reader asked why such companies were not investigated. He added that it would be better if the parasitic nature of such companies were revealed to the people.

Alviri Outlines Objectives of New 5-Year Plan

PM1101142790 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 30 Nov 89 p 20

[Interview with Morteza Alviri, head of the Majles Plan and Budget Commission, on new 5-Year Plan under discussion in the Majles; date, place not given]

[Text] [KEYHAN] How will the 5-Year Plan deal with issues such as inflation, unemployment, and the money supply?

[Alviri] We have paid attention to two problems in the 5-Year Plan to combat inflation. One is reduced output, and the other is the increased money supply. With regard to the first element, reduced production, the 5-Year Plan has kept in mind the 3.5-percent population growth. It has been planned in such a way that the GNP [Gross National Product] will increase to a stable 80 percent [not further specified] per year. This means that the annual growth in the production of local goods and services will be 5 percent. In this way one of the main causes of inflation will be brought under control via increased production.

With regard to the second problem mentioned, the high money supply, the 5-Year Plan determines its major cause as the budget deficit, which has to be cut. This means that the amount of loans taken out on the Central Bank, which in 1989 reached 1.2 billion rials, would fall to zero by 1993. In this manner, on the one hand production will be increased and, on the other, the money supply will decrease. This also means that the rate of inflation, currently 28.5 percent, will drop to 8.9 percent by 1993.

Concerning the problem of unemployment and solutions foreseen in the 5-Year Plan, Engineer Alviri said: During the past 10 years an average of 190,000 new jobs have been created every year, but the unemployment level has increased by 15.9 percent. This is why at present there are 2.3 million unemployed in the country. The 5-Year Plan proposes that 394,000 new jobs should be created every year. In that way the current level of 15.9-percent unemployment will drop to 13.4 percent by the end of the 5-Year Plan.

At the same time there will be a switch in favor of production rather than services, which means that service-related employment, counting at present for 47.2 percent of the country's jobs, will decrease to 45.5 by 1993 and at the same time production will increase.

The main direction and the principal goals of the 5-Year Plan are: to increase non-oil exports; diminish the role of petrodollars in the country's hard currency earnings; reduce to zero the amount of Central Bank loans, to cut the money supply and control inflation; strengthen the country's defense capabilities to safeguard the revolution and the Islamic Republic; alter consumer habits into more realistic patterns that fit our capabilities, especially in the field of energy; change the bureaucratic system in order to strengthen it; and, finally, achieve economic growth through increased production which will in turn increase employment.

Another aspect of the 5-Year Plan is aimed at creating social justice through creating a balance in wealth and gearing the country's facilities in the interest of the deprived classes.

[KEYHAN] Keeping in mind the severe shortcomings that exist, will the country's bureaucracy be able to realize the 5-Year Plan goals 100 percent?

[Alviri] If the executive machinery of the nation stays the same as it is now, it will certainly not be able to implement the 5-Year Plan and the plan will fail. This is why there are proposals within the 5-Year Plan to change the makeup of our bureaucracy completely. This means that the government's duties under the Constitution are being looked at in the 5-Year Plan and that those duties which fall within the right framework will be handed over to the private sector. This entails the separation of executive duties from political leadership. There will also be a combining of departments that do similar work.

In order to do this a supreme civil service council has been formed, headed by the president, whose duties will include combining those organizations that do similar work, getting rid of useless organizations, and recruiting experts for the executive arm.

[KEYHAN] The main financial emphasis of the 5-Year Plan is on petrodollars. What sort of proposals are there in the plan to find sure and secure means of income?

[Alviri] It is not possible to change the financial makeup of a nation in one 5-Year Plan. One cannot suddenly change a source of income in a country that has for many years been relying on a one-source economy. But in order to make changes [words illegible] we have some proposals in the 5-Year Plan.

First of all we have tried to implement a policy whereby we increase non-oil exports. The total income from oil for the duration of the 5-Year Plan has been predicted to total some $17.8 billion. If we succeed, with government help, we are hoping to increase our non-oil exports to this same level in the Second 5-Year Plan. In this manner, we shall decrease the role of oil as our source of income.

With regard to our income in rials, the 5-Year Plan has looked into taxes. The plan stresses the role of taxes as a source of income for the government. The level of tax will increase 300 percent by the time the 5-Year Plan ends. There will also be an increase in the area which has been noted down as simply "other sources" in the budget, and all this will mean that gradually the role of oil will decrease as far as the government income is concerned.

With regard to Iran's foreign policy he said: We were in a great hurry when it came to the 5-Year Plan. We were in a hurry because we wanted to pass the 1990 budget in accordance with the plan. This is why we had to hand it to the Majles quickly, and this is the reason why we had no time to think about foreign policy. But there have been lengthy discussions on the relationship between our foreign policy and our trading ties in the Majles Plan and Budget Commission. Based on these discussions and their results, it has been decided that a bill will be drawn up by the ministries of trade and foreign affairs together with the Majles.

This bill will deal mainly with the creation of a logical link between our trading ties in the world and our foreign policy, which will include our program to support the Third World and the nonaligned nations. It has also been decided that we should increase our trade with the Third World within the 5-Year Plan. It has also been decided that we should try to import goods from those nations which are willing to buy our non-oil exports. In this way we shall also increase our non-oil exports. This formula will be put into effect especially with regard to our supply of essential goods.

[KEYHAN] The high rate of population growth has created a lot of problems in the country. What are the proposals in the 5-Year Plan to combat this situation?

[Alviri] Unfortunately our policies since the revolution have meant an increase in our population in such a way that during the 10 years between 1976 and 1986 a population equal to what our country had during World War II has been added to this nation. This is a growth of 3.9 percent. Of course, some 0.2 percent of this has to do with the refugees who have come to Iran from other countries. The pure growth in Iran's population in 1988 was 40 births per 1,000 as against 8 deaths. The difference between these two figures is 32 in every 1,000, or a 3.2-percent growth.

In the 5-Year Plan we have predicted that by the year 1993 the growth in the population should have dropped to 35.5 in every 1,000 and the death rate should be 6.5 percent. The result of this is that growth in our population will be 2.9 percent. The means that we have chosen for this is progaganda and cultural activity through the mass media and religious circles and an increase in

health education and family planning in villages—which means providing methods of contraception for the people.

[KEYHAN] The majority of Iranian capitalists gained their wealth overnight. Why was this chance given to opportunists? What are the proposals in the 5-Year Plan to prevent the gathering of wealth in one place?

[Alviri] The tax policies foreseen in the 5-Year Plan are in favor of production activity and against the services sector and the middlemen. This means that for many production units there will be tax exemptions or very favorable rates whereas the services sector will pay more in taxes. On the other hand, with the implementation of the policies on hard currency rates a policy for the stabilization of prices will be put into effect.

This will mean that people will no longer be able to exchange goods in order to gain huge profits. With the facilities provided in the field of production, the limitations created in the area of services, and the policy of stabilizing prices, which is stressed in the 5-Year Plan, we can hope that it will no longer be possible to gather these vast sums of wealth.

Tehran Radio Elaborates on First 5-Year Plan

NC1501124590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0455 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Commentary by Central News Unit Research Group]

[Text] Late last week the Majles ratified the bill on the First 5-Year Plan for the Islamic Republic's economic, social, and cultural development. This plan, which was the fruit of many years of work and study and has now been approved, sets out the qualitative and quantitative objectives that should be achieved within a 5-year period.

Bearing in mind the fact that planning is a necessary element in societies, the approval of the 5-Year Plan is an important turning point in the history of the Islamic revolution. Economic problems made us realize that changing the unfavorable trend in the country's economy calls for profound and comprehensive thinking within the framework of a constructive and balanced program. At the same time a change in the general conditions prevailing in the country—especially since the end of the war—also created the necessary grounds for the compilation and implementation of programs for economic development.

The spreading of the idea of planning in society is in itself a constructive element which will have an extremely positive impact on the future of the country. Planning means having an approach that allows problems to be studied, objectives to be prioritized in accordance with the restraints imposed by limited resources and potentials, and events to be directed toward favorable objectives. When the idea of planning prevails and the right conditions for drawing up a plan are created, then an economic program can be compiled and implemented.

The Islamic Republic's First 5-Year Plan pursues extremely significant quantitative objectives. Within the framework of this plan, the Gross National Product will grow at an average rate of 8 percent, on the basis of the prices prevailing in 1367 [year beginning 21 March 1988]. Per capita income will increase at an average annual rate of 4.8 percent.

The current situation of the Gross National Product and per capita income is extremely unfavorable. The Gross National Product, which in 1356 [year beginning 21 March 1977] was 3,922.3 billion rials on the basis of the prices prevailing in 1353 [year beginning 21 March 1974], dropped to 2,961 billion rials in 1367.

Investment, a basic factor in economic growth, will total 27,620 billion rials during the First 5-Year Plan, and in view of the maximum use of existing potentials as well as an increase in the ratio of investment to Gross National Product, investment will grow at an average annual rate of 11.6 percent.

It should be noted that the fall in the rate of investment in the country in recent years was among the main reasons for the reduction in the supply of goods and services in relation to the growing demands of society.

In the First 5-Year Plan, the state budget deficit will be reduced from about 2,146 billion rials in 1367 to 92.5 billion rials [figures as heard] in 1372 [year beginning 21 March 1993]. Also, the volume of nonoil exports will reach about $18 billion.

Another significant objective pursued by this plan is the creation of 394,000 new jobs each year and the reduction of the rate of unemployment to 14 percent. Studies show that during the decade between 1355 and 1365 [1976-1986], the net number of jobs created in all areas of the economy averaged 190,000 each year, while the manpower capacity is more than 300,000 persons per year. Also, during the First 5-Year Plan the rate of growth of the money supply will drop and the rise in the price index of goods and services will be 8.9 percent in 1372.

It is very important if these quantitative objectives are to be achieved and qualitative policies and aims in the first plan are to be implemented that the plan should be properly supervised. The drawing up of the plan is actually the beginning. Experience gained by other Third World countries that have implemented their economic plans with relative success shows that national determination is the most important element in the implementation of such plans. If national determination is not consolidated, no economic plan can produce practical results. National determination and a national unity of views among political factions are among the basic factors that guarantee the success of such plans in Third World countries.

The implementation of plans calls for a strong, coordinated, and harmonious executive system in the country. In the First 5-Year Plan, the eighth paragraph on general objectives focuses on the need to reform the country's executive organization and management. This is because the current administrative organs cannot help toward the attainment of the objectives stated in the first plan in a good way. It is necessary, moreover, to change current regulations. Therefore, bills such as the bill on the administrative system, laws on accounting, import-export regulations, and so on should be introduced. Precise supervision of the implementation of the plan and necessary corrections when needed are vital elements in the success of the First 5-Year Plan. Achieving this calls for the creation of the necessary organs and the creation of precise mechanisms of supervision.

Report on Proceedings of 19 Dec 89 Majles Session

PM1901161090 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 20 Dec 89 pp 5, 11

[Report by unidentified RESALAT "legal and parliamentary correspondent"]

[Text] The Majles had an open session yesterday morning and afternoon chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi. The session started with recitations from the holy Koran after which Messrs Damadi, the deputy from Sari; Khananshu, the deputy for the Assyrian religious minority; Khalkhali, deputy from Qom; and Nowruz-Zadeh from Asfarayen gave the pre-agenda speeches. Then there were some notices given to the executive by the deputies, after which the Majles went into session.

According to a report filed by the RESALAT parliamentary correspondent, the first discussion on the agenda yesterday was further talks on the bill for the 5-Year Plan for economic, cultural and social expansion in the Islamic Republic. Some of the footnotes to the bill were passed by the deputies and the rest of the discussions were postponed to a later session.

The second item on the agenda was a question put by Mr Aqa'i, the deputy from Hamedan, to the minister of health and health education, to which Dr Fazel gave a reply. Here are the texts of the speeches given by the deputies and the details of the subjects discussed:

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr Damadi, the deputy from Sari, who said: A deputy should represent the views and the movements of the people, say what the people are saying, and express their pains and try to find cures for those pains; otherwise, he is not in tune with the people. This is exactly why we have a parliament.

He continued his speech by speaking about the 98 percent of the people's votes approving revisions in the Constitution, their sacrifices, and solutions to economic problems. He added: The problems we face in society at the moment include high prices; inflation; unemployment; housing; the lack of schools; health and welfare; the fact that about 600,000 of our young and active manpower fail the entrance examinations for universities; the problems of the civil servants and workers; the unfair distribution of the nation's resources; and dozens of other things. What are the causes of these things? Who is to blame and who is giving the slogans?

They must know that the time for shouting slogans is past and that slogans now have to be turned into action. This is no time to scream and shout slogans. It is time for hard work and effort. It is time for construction. We do not want to question the values of the past. But today we see students attacking government offices because they have nowhere to sleep. We see 600,000 students left outside university doors because they do not have the proper educational qualifications. Who are the true culprits? Who is responsible for inflation, unemployment, poverty, and the poison that is killing our young people? If there are administrative problems that are distressing the people today, if this also worries our civil servants, if the lack of education space and school buildings means there are three shifts of classes being taught every day—keeping in mind the population explosion—who is responsible? Who is going to answer for all this?

If there is no financial security and if there is no security in the production market, and if this is why all the money has gone toward the services sector and toward intermediary activity, who is to blame for this? You have pushed the wealthy people toward the services sector and made middle-men out of them with your slogans. If past policies are called in question, you start shouting that it is values that are being questioned. We were forced to accept economic problems during the war. Our endurance with regard to economic issues and problems was based on our values, and its remains so today. Now that we have put the war behind us, is it a matter of pride to be poor and to have inflation as well?

If a villager living on the edge of the jungle faces 1,000 problems in building 1 square meter of his house, while some people have been making profits for years in the name of one foundation or another, having a monopoly of exports and imports of some dubious company or foundation of some sort, if someone complains, will values be in question? I do not know why the judiciary remains silent in this regard. You have filled up the cities, especially Tehran, and you have emptied the villages in this way. That is why there is nothing left of agriculture except in name. You have separated agriculture from cultivation and you have given all the facilities to the cities. This has caused an imbalance in the attraction of cities which means that the population living in cities has increased to 27 million.

If someone wants to say that this is not good, you raise a stick over his head, say that he against the government, and present him to society as someone who is against rule by jurisconsult. Why is it that you care so much all

of a sudden? Especially when there is the government of Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, someone who spent his whole life fighting alongside the Imam. Now you are producing slogans about foreign loans and you feel concern about this. Who has borrowed money, and from where? Why did you not say anything about this issue 2 years ago; why did you not talk about it then?

He continued: Think in broader terms. Why should we not have basic industries instead of asking foreigners to supply us with plastics, paper, food, spare parts for agricultural machinery, and so forth? What is this dry and infertile thought that has taken over your whole being? Why is it that you try to influence the people with empty slogans, through speeches and interviews?

Let us think in a fair and just way. Let us spend 20 percent of the money spent on imports on buying the factories to produce those very goods that we have to buy from foreigners. Without a doubt we would have strong industries in the future so that we would not need foreign countries to that extent. Is this not a sensible thing to do that would benefit the people and the regime? Is this borrowing money and being dependent?

Mr Damadi then addressed the president and said: You should not be too scared of these slogans to solve the nation's economic problems. You must take long and rapid strides toward achieving comforts for the people, and the brave and martyr-raising people will pay no attention to such slogans because they hate them. They will do everything in their power to promote the country's independence and support the government's plans.

The speaker then talked about the people's bravery under wartime conditions and said: It is true that you fought for 8 years without having the slightest expectations. You safeguarded the country's territorial integrity and independence. Now there may be a few people who are against the government's programs, who disregard Islamic values. They must think about correcting themselves. They must know that the people support you and that they proved this in the elections.

Dear Brothers, there is a limit to criticism and slogans. If you came forth with a plan and said that you had proposals to solve the problems of housing or agriculture or industry and that we would achieve self-sufficiency with those proposals, who would stop you? If you presented plans to absorb the unemployed, or to fight inflation and high prices in the next few years, who would criticize you? Criticism is very good on the condition that you also give solutions. Otherwise it merely creates more false problems for the people. When you have no clear or definite plan of your own, why cause so many obstructions?

Mr Damadi added: In order to elect one person you recommended a merger between two organizations that were opposed to one another, and you knew that this would cause problems for the people. What have you ever had to sya, and what have you to say today, about the high prices or inflation which are eating away at the people like termites? Could you please say if there are any solutions to this, other than to produce and to let the people do their work—which has nothing to do with currency stockpiles, or internal independence, or government supervision, which is what we see in the current programs?

Respected gentlemen, we do not want to place values in question. But what has been said is the truth, and we have to see who is questioning values. For example, did the Imam not endorse the Council of Guardians time and time again? Is the legitimacy of the Majles and what is passed through the Majles not up to the Council of Guardians? Why is it then that you start shouting about things not having been endorsed? Where is the core of the problem? Let us unite to construct the country, for the sake of our values, for the blood of the martyrs, and under the leadership of our dear leader, who is wise and popular. Let us think of solutions to the problems in society. There is great need for unity in the country.

The deputy from Sari then concluded his speech by saying: There was some illogical reaction to the speech given by my respected colleague Mr Sho'leh Sa'adi, and there were some accusations. These included the allegation that under the previous regime, he was the lawyer of some foreign companies abroad. That is not the case. He was serving in Europe as a legal representative of the Iranian Government. The second point was in connection with the jurisconsult. He wrote his doctoral thesis on the subject of the jurisconsult and has supported it completely.

The second pre-agenda speaker was Mr Khananshu, the deputy representing the Assyrian religious minority. He conveyed his greetings to all Christians in Iran and around the world on the occasion of the birth of Christ—peace be unto Him and His family—and for the year 1990, especially to the hard-working Assyrians. He then wished a good new year to the world and a prosperous year to Iran and its people. He also wished for God to give the country's officials power, wisdom, and patience so that they may be able to solve the people's problems.

He continued his speech by commenting on the 5-Year Plan and said: First of all I ask all active Assyrians to continue to work as always in the fields of reconstruction and to implement the government's 5-Year Plan. This 5-Year Plan, which will outline the nation's political and financial path, is at present before the respected Majles deputies for consideration.

This plan speaks first of all of the government's peace of mind. It means that in a short time it has been able to present such a program to the Majles. Second, it speaks of a bright and direct government policy in the face of dark issues such as trade and production and the policy of not having any money [as published]. From now on, all affairs in the country will have a policy of their own and the officials will take their legal steps with full confidence—which will speed things up.

What is a cause for worry however, is the execution of such a policy under the present administrative system, which is not coordinated in any way with the program being proposed. The 5-Year Plan is a huge economic, social, and cultural change, and the administrative machinery has to have the capacity to absorb this. To put the 5-Year Plan into action needs a strong and powerful system to be able to put into play an export policy—on which the plan has laid a great deal of importance—that can compete with other countries. For example, we have to be able to export fruit, which goes bad because of a lack of government support, to a country before it goes bad so that it can be presented on world markets.

There is the customs system, which is very slow. On the one hand we have the volume of imports and exports, and on the other we have this system which is not going to be able to get the goods to the consumer on time. This organization has not learned to recognize priorities. It does not recognize the fact that not giving a factory its spares and raw materials on time means that production will stop—which in turn means that hundreds of workers will remain idle as will that factory, which is a nation's investment.

He gave a reminder in his speech: The people always criticize the authorities and the government, whereas one cannot blame everything on the government. We deputies who are also in the know must also take some of the criticism. Because the deputies, who are able to present plans for the smallest matter and raise them in the Majles as a matter of urgency, will of course be able to present plans for the administrative system.

For example, this past week deputies brought into the Majles, within 24 hours, the plan dealing with parliamentary group laws; they discussed it as an urgent matter and asked that it be passed, and it was passed. This speed of action is necessary for the Majles and is worthy of praise. The Majles must counter injustice and unlawful behavior.

But the question is this: Why is it that deputies who are able to act fast when it comes to injustice in society—why is it that they make no move toward reconstructing the administrative system in the country? That way the people will be saved a lot of trouble and a lot of time-wasting and the groundwork will be prepared for the 5-Year Plan. We all believe that the administative system is one of the issues in the country.

Mr Khananshu continued his speech by saying that the government should give dollars to factories at the government rate. He added: If there are no currency concessions given to these factories, unfortunately their orders will not be put into production until the end of the current year [year ends 21 March 1990]. On the other hand, the price of raw materials on the open market is still at a peak. This means that until the end of this year there will be no change in the factories' production and there will not be a break in the price of raw materials on the market.

The negative aspect of the issue is the destruction of production units linked to large factories, because they will not be able to sell their products. As a result they will have to give their products to wholesalers to sell. This will bankrupt and destroy the small producers, which in turn imposes hardship on the hundreds of unemployed workers and their families, who will be left without an income.

The speaker then criticized the government building companies and said: These companies, some of which are active, are not technical in nature. It would be better to say that they are engaged in real estate work and also in imports. This kind of activity is a major mistake which the government must do something about. It must make some major changes in the general system of such companies. There must be some movement in this area to bring about hope so that, with the help of the technical forces in the country, that profession wil become secure again and engage in its real task once more. This is especially important at this time, when the new government has started moving toward reconstruction.

The third pre-agenda speaker was Mr Khalkahli, the deputy from Qom, who in his speech criticized the Romanian president's visit to Iran. He said: With regard to Mr Ceausescu's coming to Iran, I thought that I should mention a few things. Of course, it was decided that it would be better if he did come. Mr Ceausescu had come to Iran during the time of the Shah, and there was tremendous help from Iran at the time of the Shah for the Romanian tractor industry, which wanted to export its goods to Iran.

Mr Ceausescu has some problems, and one of his problems is that he has always had close ties with South Africa and has never changed his position with regard to recognizing the government of Israel. He has always had a strange relationship with Islamic countries, including the Islamic Republic of Iran. We hope that during this trip that he has made to Iran, when his own people have revolted against him at home—we hope that things will work out. Mr Ceausescu should resign if he thinks that is the best thing to do. If not, then he should continue to govern Romania. In any case we always wish for the grandeur of the Romanian people. The Romanian people will always be alongside the Iranian people. Perhaps it is possible that, even if Mr Ceausescu went, things would not become turbulent. God willing, the relations between the peoples of Iran and Romania with regard to economic issues such as petrochemicals and industries will continue.

He concluded by saying: We must be careful that no one cheats us in all this coming and going.

According to our praliamentary correspondent, at the end of Mr Khalkhali's speech some of the deputies raised objections to his speech, to which Mr Karrubi responded that everyone knew that these were his personal views and had nothing to do with the Majles. Of course, the deputies are free, and they do express themselves

through the microphones. Of course, our officials are clever and they are aware of the situation. Anyone who is our guest is most welcome.

The fourth pre-agenda speaker of the Majles open session yesterday was Seyyed Reza Nowruz-Zadeh from Asfarayen. At the beginning of his speech he remembered the martyrdom of Ayatollah Moffateh and quoted Ayatollah Khamene'i: The late Moffateh brought unity, which was one of the aims of the late great leader of the Islamic revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni. He once said: It is necessary for the ulema to make an effort to bring together those two great sectors, the clerics and the universities. They must know that without the clergy the university will not gain independence, nor will the cleric without the university. In another speech he had said: Our theological centers and our universities must be one and they must be a model for the whole world. But it is up to the theological centers to expand the pure Islam of the Prophet—peace be unto him and his family—in all fields.

The speaker then talked about one of Ayatollah Moffateh's students, the martyr Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Hasan Mohhafer, and said: He followed the Imam's orders and realized this unity in himself. Following a series of technical courses in religion at the Universities of Tehran and Mashhad, he completed his education at the Mashhad theological center and then at a fourth center of learning, which was the war front. He ended up like his teacher, drinking from the cup of martyrdom in the "Karbala' 5" operations to become a role-model for all the followers and seekers of pure Islam.

Nowruz-zadeh continued: Finally, I wish to convey another of the Imam's wise counsels to the dear ones at the theological centers and at the universities, which should become the slogan for all those hearing this speech. My other piece of advice is to those gentlemen and to the clerics. My advice is that you should safeguard the power of the universities and the young people in them and not stand against them. You are all members of the same nation and country and are all living in the same house. You must both safeguard your house. The laws of this land will be up to those who are now in university, and I do not know what is going to happen. Just as I tell them not lose that power of the clergy, I am telling you not to lose this power. You must be one another's brothers. Let us hope for more strength in the unity of these two segments.

The first item on the agenda of the Majles session yesterday was the continued debate on the bill dealing with the 5-Year Plan. Recommendations on Footnote 17: The economic and finance commission in Section 7 suggested that the [words illegible] discussed in Footnote 75 of the budget bill for 1984 be increased ten times.

This commission also suggested that Section 5 passed in 1984, which said that all administrative and legal expenses of the special civil courts should be dealt with at the level of legal courts [as published]. This proposal was put to the vote and was passed.

The economy and finance commission suggested that this clause be added to the end of footnote [word illegible] instead of the clause at the end of the plan and budget commission [as published]:

"The government has the duty to take 50 percent of the total revenue gained from executing this footnote and place it at the disposal of the Ministry of Justice. This sum is taken every year and put into a general incomes account from a separate line of credit, which is mentioned in the budget of that year. This is to be used solely to make up the ministry's budget deficit with regard to its construction projects—building coroners' offices and court houses in provincial centers. It is also to expand the existing judicial facilities in accordance with agreements reached with the plan and budget organization and put these to use.

Mr Davudi Shamsi spoke in favor of and Mr [name illegible] spoke against this proposal. After an explanation from the reporter from the appropriate commission and the government's representative, it was put to a vote and was passed.

The second item on the Majles agenda was to exempt factories and production units under the care of the Martyrs' Foundation of the Islamic Republic from the law on safeguarding and expanding industry passed by the Revolutionary Council on 1 July 1979, which was discussed as a priority item.

With regard to giving the item priority Mr Movahedi Savoji spoke against and Mr Mo'ri spoke in favor of giving priority consideration to the item. It was put to a vote and was passed.

Also at the Majles session a question was raised by Mr Gholam Hoseyn Aqa'i, the deputy from Hamedan, addressed to Dr Iraj Fazel, minister of health and health education, on why the law dealing with the import of drugs passed in 1955 has not been put into effect. In reply, the minister of health said: There was a law which was passed in 1955 dealing with the import and manufacture of cosmetics, drugs, foodstuffs, and toiletries. There are four important points in this law which says that, if you want to buy drugs, you have to buy them from prominent and famous companies approved by the Ministry of Health. The law says that, if you want to buy drugs, they must have been in use in the country of origin for at least 5 years and that, if they are [word illegible], we have to be allowed to sell them in this country. This law says that, if we want to buy a certain drug, the company has to send a sample so that it can be tested and so forth.

Unfortunately, this law was never obeyed after the revolution and was completely ignored, and there were indeed some problems in this regard. So there is the question of why the law was not obeyed at all. If it was

ignored, who gave permission for it to be ignored? If there such permission was given, who gave it and [words illegible].

Dr Fazel answered the question by giving a detailed account of the situation relating to medical imports by multinational companies before the revolution.

Minister of Health Dr Fazel added: The law dealing with the import of drugs which was passed in 1955 does not have the capability to deal with Iran's medical situation. With approval from doctors and experts some amendments were prepared by the cabinet to this law, and from 1988 the amendments to the bill became law and were put into effect.

He continued: Many of the aspects of the law passed in 1955 were capable of being put into effect, bearing in mind the makeup of the regime. But those parts which have been ignored—and if there were cases of the law's being broken—are something that can be pursued by the legal authorities. Whatever the law says, we will obey it.

According to this report the deputy from Hamedan who had asked this question of the health minister was not satisfied with the answer given, so the question posed went to the Majles commission dealing with deputies' questions.

There was continued discussion on the proposed 5-Year Plan in the afternoon session of the Majles yesterday.

"Footnote 18:

"1. In order to encourage and expand the export of items made locally, the raw materials, spares and other equipment, and luxury items needed for the manufacture of such goods will be exempt from having to obtain certificates of [words illegible]. They will also be exempt from having their prices controlled by the appropriate centers of production and distribution. It is up to the appropriate ministry to decide what items can benefit from this exemption.

"2. In order to support the exporters of goods manufactured locally, the government has the duty to set up a fund to cover financial guarantees and possible losses to exporters. The rules dealing with the execution of this footnote will be prepared by the appropriate ministries involved and will be put forward for the cabinet's approval within 3 months of the law's coming into effect."

With regard to this footnote, Mr Behzadiyan suggested that Clause A of Footnote 27 of the Musavi government bill replace Clause A of this footnote:

"Clause A of Footnote 27: The following items of the centers of production and distribution will be exempt: raw material, spare parts, equipment, and luxury items used by the manufacturers of exported items and other appropriate ministries dealing with production."

This proposal was put to the vote and was rejected. There was also a suggestion by Mr Hadi Ghaffari to remove the words "luxury items" from the footnote, which was put to the vote but was rejected. Mr Saleh-Abadi suggested that Clause 2 of the footnote be removed. This was put to the vote and was accepted.

"Footnote 19: The government will be allowed to set up centers of free trade and industry in at least three border regions."

Some of the deputies suggested that this footnote be removed.

Mr Salamati gave some details with regard to free centers of trade and industry and explained why he had suggested that this footnote be removed. He said: It is true that we are at the moment facing some problems in connection with providing raw materials. Instead of creating free centers of trade and industry and changing our customs regulations, we should create port faciltiies. This is something that is possible, and there is no need for us to come and make centers of free trade and industry. In addition to this, the problems we face regarding our exports cannot easily be solved through such means. Our problems are connected with market research and the complicated rules and regulations that have decreased our exports with the end result that traders cannot export their goods very easily.

Mr Salamati then talked about attracting the capital that is abroad as well as expatriates. He said: Usually foreigners invest in an area where they are sure of the future of their investments. Now if you want to give such guarantees, go ahead. Between us and the investors, there will be a time when we will have to give up on some of our slogans, and until such time as those slogans are put aside they will not feel secure enough.

They want what they call a secure situation. They think that, if we support liberation movements, this will not be an island of tranquillity. They say that, if we continue to remain faithful to our slogans, they will not feel secure enough. If we abandon our slogans, in effect we have to turn our backs on our revolution. There are problems that we know with regard to this and you should think of those when thinking of the economic considerations.

As for a trade zone created in a country which wants to take over other markets—that is something we have never had before, and we do not have the know-how just yet. When port facilities and so forth are created like those in Dubai and Kuwait, it will not be dc9$in mind the fact that we have not yet been able to establish very close ties with the shaykhdoms in the area, there are some [words illegible] that are not that successful. At least, that is the way it is now. Under the present circumstances, it is not to the advantage of our society and it will damage our economy. This is why I am in favor of removing this footnote.

Mr Nowbakht spoke in favor of the footnote and against the suggestion that it be removed. He said: Free ports

have a lot of advantages. There are free ports in 15 countries of the world at present, and no one can deny that such ports can act as a governmental mechanism in developing countries. It is clear to everyone that free ports create jobs, bring in lots of hard currency, increase exports and local production, get the stagnating cash flowing in the market again, absorb technology, and make market research much easier as well as having other advantages that we need.

He added: Iran has 1,500 km of maritime borders with plenty of adequate and suitable port space in the south. We have enough manpower and, since we have a one-item economy, we need to use this potential facility.

Mr Nowbakht said that we need to have free ports in order to get out of the current situation. He continued: We can make the correct moves in this regard without damaging our ideals. The ideals will not be damaged and we will be able to utilize the profits gained.

Mr 'Ala' spoke in favor of removing Footnote 19 and said: The UNIDO organization believes that multinational corporations are such that they take up a lot of capital and do not create that many jobs. If they did create jobs, they would have been useful; but, because they just use up capital, they have not been that successful so far.

He added: There are 60 free ports in Asia and they are all very competitive. This is why they have to give bonuses in the way of taxes and customs regulations to attract investments. According to UNIDO this is the greatest disaster to have occurred in the Third World and in Asia.

Mr 'Ala' continued his speech by saying that such ports need a lot of facilities including water, electricity, gas, capital, and so forth. He said: If we really want to make this investment in these regions, we can do the same thing for our own factories and we will not have all these problems.

Mr Alviri, head of the Majles plan and budget commission, started his speech by opposing the rejection of the footnote, adding: At the moment we have 80,000 people traveling out of the country every year in order to be able to bring goods back with them. Also, the imports we have from the Persian Gulf region are no secret to anyone. Is it logical to allow people to leave the country every year to bring things back that are needed in this country? Would it be wrong to have these same goods imported through our own port system?

Why is it that the brothers confuse these issues with cultural damage? For example, if this port were created, the issue of Islamic dress would be forgotten, or else there would be alcoholic drinks for sale in that area. Where is the logic behind this? Why do you mix these things up with free ports? This is not right.

If we were to make the ports in Chahbahar free it would mean that, according to the regulations there, there would be no trade tax or customs charges. The result would be that, when deprived areas in the country were made into free ports, they would prosper and there would be economic growth there. We would make sure that the regulations that exist in the Islamic Republic also applied in those areas, so that the brothers would not have a problem in that regard.

The representative of the government commented on the suggestion and said: If it were not for our need to buy thing from Dubai, it would not be so advanced now. Therefore we believe that we should not give this opportunity to other countries, that we should use this chance ourselves in order to satisfy internal demand.

He said that if the footnote were implemented it would mean growth in the deprived areas of the country.

Following speeches in opposition, the proposal to strike Footnote 19 from the bill was put to the vote and was rejected.

Further discussions on the bill were postponed until a later Majles session.

*Report on 1 Jan 90 Majles Session

90OI0121A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 2 Jan 90 p 5

[Text] Legal and parliamentary division:

The Majles held sessions yesterday morning and afternoon chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi and continued with Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemian presiding. In this session, after recitation of verses from the Koran, Messrs. Salimi, the representative of Mianeh; Sadeqiani, the representative of Salmas; and 'Azimi, the representative of Tarqabeh, spoke as pre-agenda speakers. Then Mr Karrubi spoke briefly and offered his condolences to all Moslems on the martyrdom of the grand Ladv of Islam, her holiness Fatemeh. He expressed hope that the Islamic nation, particularly our sisters in the Islamic world, will benefit from the words and glorious life of the prophet's family to attain perfection and salvation. Following the Majles speaker's speech, the representatives' memos to the country's executive officials were read and the Majles went into session.

According to the report by RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent, the only item on the agenda was the continuation of discussions on the bill for the 5-year plan, of which several notes were discussed by the representatives.

Below you will read the pre-agenda speeches of the representatives and the details of the discussions.

Musa Salimi, Representative of the People of Mianeh

The first pre-agenda speaker of yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr Musa Salimi, the representative of the people of Mianeh, who sent greetings to the pure soul of the great leader of the Islamic revolution, his reverence the Imam of the people, sent greetings to the revered leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah

Khamene'i, and sent greetings to the pure souls of the martyrs of the revolution and the imposed war, particularly his two martyred sons, Ahmad and Mahmud Salimi, who gave their lives in the service of Islam and the Koran for monotheism, the unity of the word, and obedience to the sacred position of the Guardian of the Age and the religious guardian. With greetings to the honorable minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the soldier on the front lines of battle, Dr Velayati, he began his speech: I sincerely praise and thank the religious, committed, revolutionary, always-present-on-the-scene, self-sacrificing, combative, and martyr-nurturing people of Mianeh and its districts, those who elected me to the Majles in the third session, as they did in the first and second sessions, to serve the Majles and defend their legitimate rights. I have always been the recipient of their kindness, for which I am indebted to them. May God grant all of us the opportunity to serve, and the people should know that day and night we are working to serve them, their country, and the oppressed.

He then strongly condemned the cruel and criminal U.S. military invasion of the country, government, and people of Panama and declared: Oh government of the United States, shame on you. You have put humanity to shame with this cruel and shameless act of yours, of which you are not ashamed. I ask the people of the world to sit in judgment. They should know that the powerful know no other way but force and plunder. How sincere are those who falsely speak of human rights and the freedom and independence of countries and human beings, and how much value do they place on human beings? I call on the people of the world to stand up against this horrible, inhuman crime and vehemently raise their fists against these cruel usurpers of human rights.

He also said; I express contempt and hatred for the filthy, deceiving governments of England and France, who supported the Great Satan in vetoing the resolution of the UN Security Council. I also complain about other governments of the world who have kept silent and have not made the slightest defense of the oppressed people of Panama. To all of them, I say: You had better not label yourselves human beings, because you are a disgrace to humanity. No ferocious beast would have done more than what you have done. Openly I say that you are blind, empty-headed, and narrow-minded, and you lack the slightest independence and freedom. You are condemned by all alert consciences. You had better wake up for an hour and think. Free yourselves from the chains of slavery that you have placed on your whole beings and think freely, like human beings. Do not demean the status of humanity more than you have. How long must cruelty, aggression, and injustice persist?

In another part of his speech, Mr Salimi expressed his full support for the statements of the grand leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Khamene'i, in connection with support for the officials of the sacred regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran and added: I warn those who try irresponsibly, unwittingly, and sometimes conscientiously and with hostility, with miserable and dishonorable efforts, aggressively and unjustly, to weaken the officials of the regime to stop their improper actions for the sake of God and the preservation of the grandeur and message of Islam and the protection of human rights, not to strike at the roots of Islam, not to help the enemy, not to make the enemy happy, and not to make the revered leader sad and unhappy. They should try to preserve unity and take steps that please God for the country and the oppressed of the world. To please God and the Prophet and ensure the happiness of the pure souls of the martyrs and the families of the martyrs, they should stop creating discord, fragmentation, and impiety to be deserving of the mercy, kindness, and help of unknown powers.

I say to the revered leader that I gave two sons to advance the goals and intentions of the Imam of the people. I am also training two other children to advance your goals and intentions, which are the same as those of our revered Imam and are precisely the same as the goals of Islam.

I hope God will grant me the opportunity to sacrifice my two older children for your goals and intentions. I hope that God will also accept these two other children as sacrifices, with His kindness.

The representative of the people of Mianeh also stated clearly: I ask the martyr-nurturing people of Mianeh to fully support the honorable Friday imam of the city, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rumian, who is a learned, pious, committed, revolutionary, political, just, competent, and moral man, and to participate in and receive the full benefit of the Friday prayers. I recommend that they support the honorable governor of the city, because he is a successful and active servant, and I thank him for His services and hard work.

The speaker then thanked the officials of the city of Mianeh who, through unity and cooperation, offer valuable services to the people. He offered reminders to the ministers of health, treatment, and medical education, roads and transport, and justice in regard to the problems in his constituency. In conclusion, he expressed best wishes for their success and the attainment of Islamic and humanitarian goals, particularly for the government of Hojjat ol- Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president of Iran.

Qasem Sadeqiani, Representative of the People of Salmas

The second pre-agenda speaker was Mr Qasem Mehrzad Sadeqiani, from Salmas electoral district. First he offered condolences on the occasion of the anniversary of the martyrdom of her holiness Zahra and greetings to the pure soul of the grand leader of the Islamic revolution and the revered leader of the revolution. He then expressed his congratulations on the anniversary of the birth of his holiness Jesus and the start of the new Christian year to all the true followers of his holiness.

He referred to the anniversary of the sending of the Imam's historical message (may God rest his soul) to Mr Gorbachev and said: Because of the confines of time, I shall read the highlights of the message of the Imam that, similar to the messages of the Prophet, caused the crumbling of the walls of heathenism, oppression, and irreligiosity, after which I shall speak about it.

In the name of God the compassionate and the merciful. Your Excellency Mr Gorbachev, premier of the Soviet Union. With hopes for the happiness and prosperity of you and the Soviet nation. Since it was felt that in analyzing the political events of the world, particularly in connection with Soviet issues, Your Excellency has begun a new period of revision and change since you came to office, and your boldness in dealing with the realities of the world may be the source of changes and may disrupt the present balance of power in the world, I find it necessary to make a few points. Even though up to this point your new line of thinking and decisions may only be a means to resolve party problems and solve some of the problems of the people, even so, the courage to revise the policies of a school that had for years imprisoned the revolutionary children of the world within iron walls is worthy of praise. And if you think beyond this level, the first issue that is certain to result in your success is for you to revise the policy of your predecessors in regard to atheism and irreligiosity in the society, which have inflicted the greatest of blows on the Soviet people. You must know that it is impossible to deal realistically with the issues of the world in any other way. Of course, after the false methods and operations of previous powerful Communist men in the economic area, the West might look like a green garden, but the truth is something else.

At this juncture, if you want to solve the economic problems of socialism and communism by resorting to Western capitalism, not only will you fail to resolve any problems in your own society, but others will need to come to correct your mistakes. Today, even though the economic and social methods of Marxism have reached a dead end, the Western world as well suffers from the same or similar problems in addition to other problems.

Your Excellency Mr Gorbachev, one must face the truth. The main problems of your country are not those of ownership, economy, and freedom. Your main problem is lack of true trust in God, the same problem that has dragged the West into the dead end of corruption, or shall do so. Your main problem is your long, futile fight with God and thus existence and creation.

Your Excellency Mr Gorbachev, it is clear to everyone that from now on, communism will be sought in the museums of political history, because Marxism does not respond to any true need of human beings, since it is a material ideology, and humanity cannot be saved from the crisis of lack of belief in spirituality, which is the most essential ailment in human society in the West and the East.

Your Excellency Mr Gorbachev, perhaps you have not properly turned your back on Marxism and still express your absolute belief in it in your interviews. But you know that you do not.

The leader of China struck the first blow against communism, and you struck the second and apparently the final blow against it. Today, we no longer have anything called communism in the world. But I ask you seriously not to fall into the prison of the West and the Great Satan in breaking the psychological walls of Marxism.

I hope you find true glory in wiping the last 70-year-old decayed, crooked layers of communism off the face of history and your country. Today no longer will your allied governments, whose hearts beat for their homelands and people, be prepared to use the hidden and obvious resources of their countries to prove the success of communism, the sound of whose broken bones are heard even by the ears of their children.

After quoting the above statements from the historical message of the Imam, Mr Sadeqiani said: Of course, I did not read the remainder of the statements of the Imam (God rest his soul). Now we must note several issues. That is, our beloved, guiding Imam heard the breaking of the bones of communism about a year ago, foresaw the crumbling of the walls of heathenism, spoke about it clearly and prophesied the disruption of the balance of world power.

Firstly, we have not yet even analyzed and publicized this valuable, heathenism-breaking document that shows the importance of the correct prediction and position of the Imam in international relations, except for one or two brief instances and references, whereas if we had been able to have an essential analysis of this message, certainly we would have prevented some of the unwanted incidents in our foreign relations. Now, we must ask ourselves how our beloved Imam foresaw the crumbling of the walls of heathenism 1 year before it occurred? What can I say? We even passed by the crumbling Berlin wall without realizing what was happening. Should we who possess this message not be the banner carriers and clarifiers among the oppressed nations of the world? Secondly, in a thousand ways, this document says that special priority should be given to protecting the dignity of Islam, the revolution, and Iran and preserving the memory, the name, and the line of the Imam and that this memento, that is, the Islamic regime, has come into being under the leadership of that beloved one, and all are considered those who are continuing the Imam's path. Now, for anyone to want to create doubt concerning the immortal slogan of the Moslem nations of the world, which is, "God is great, Khomeyni is leader," he must be insecure in his own beliefs, because the beloved leader and the Guardian of Muslims, Ayatollah Khamene'i, has emphasized this slogan in his valuable speeches.

He added: At this sensitive juncture, I expect the people of the pen and analysts to compensate for the negligence

of the past, to make known to the world the immortal message of the great leader of the Islamic revolution as well as the vision of the Imam of the people, to enlighten his followers and future generations, which is necessary for the preservation and continuation of the revolution, so that the thoughts of the Imam are spread in the Islamic society.

The speaker continued: In regard to the domestic problems of the country, about which some members of the press have caused anxiety for the Hezbollah nation, and with the telephone calls that are made, I must say that nothing new has happened. All the issues and discussions that occur in the society stem from the existence of two economic viewpoints, which sometimes appears under the support of the leadership and sometimes under the support of the government, the officials and other things. I must say that all the officials without exception are the followers of and are obedient to the Guardian of Guardians of Muslims and need his support, he who is undoubtedly after the Imam of the people, the most deserving person to hold this position. As for the overall support and endorsement of the representatives of the Majles for the Cabinet, Mr Hashemi, and the vote of confidence of the Majles given the ministers who are selected, you witnessed that during the time of Mr Hashemi there were always a few ministers who would not receive the necessary vote of confidence, but this time everyone received the votes. But this does not mean that the representatives are to forget their oath. On necessary occasions they shall not avoid issuing reminders or even calling for impeachment, as has occurred in the 10-year history of the Majles. Most of the previous ministers have been brought in for questioning and some have on occasion been impeached. This is the natural, legal, and religious right of the representatives, which has been emphasized even more by the revision council of the Constitution. Articles 76, 84, 86, 88, 89, and 90 have established and clarified the rights and duties of the representatives. They can take actions against whatever the representatives determine necessary to preserve the dignity of the revolution, remove corrosion from the face of the revolution and respond to the rumors created by news imperialism, in accordance with their legal duties. Of course, we must also take into consideration that preservation of the revolution and leadership is much more significant than the injustice of an individual.

Mohammad 'Azimi, Representative of the People of Tarqabeh and Chenaran

Mr 'Azimi, the representative of the people of Tarqabeh and Chenaran, was the last pre-agenda speaker. He began his speech by offering condolences on the martyrdom of the daughter of the Prophet, Fatemeh, and said: Thanks and praise to Almighty God Who graced us and, after the heart-rending departure of the spirit of God, entrusted the leadership of the Muslims to the competent hands of the revered son of her holiness Zahra and the sincere student of the beloved Imam (God bless his soul), the wise superman who lights the guiding torch on the path of this nation in the sensitive and destiny-making junctures of the revolution with his prophet-like encouragement and sympathetic guidance in order that they be able to distinguish truth from falsehood.

He continued: The leader of the oppressed people of the world, in his guiding statements on Wednesday last week, explained the position of the Islamic Republic in connection with world issues and emphasized the foreign ministry's united, conscious confrontation with the poisonous policies and propaganda of the enemy. Then he reprimanded those who by excuses and creating disruptions want to weaken the officials of the national diplomacy and continued: In the face of all sorts of oppressive and aggressive policies, is it possible for us to allow the diplomatic officials of the country to be attacked by irresponsible individuals? Will we allow it? Now, the people ask, who are these irresponsible people who have so offended the leader? Who are these people who create little disturbances here and there and become critical? Could they be any other than some of the officials who have no sense of responsibility? The recent speeches and analyses of and questions to the honorable minister of foreign affairs reveal the answer. Of course, the principle of questioning and criticism, if it is to please God, improve the affairs of Muslims and perform one's duty, is very desirable and no one opposes true questions that help alleviate problems and strengthen and motivate the regime. But when some, through making excuses, want to weaken the sincere officials of the regime and without realizing the sensitive present situation, abandon the strong points and blow out of proportion faults that may be inevitable, undoubtedly the reasons are reproachful. The gentlemen say that the leader was not addressing them. I say, do not deceive yourself. His honor's speech was addressed to all those who do not have a sense of responsibility, who have no pain, who do not realize the sensitive situation and conditions of the revolution—anyone, at any level, with any title. Then he said do not corruption in the land; we are reformers but they are the people causing the corruption. [Arabic—Koranic phrase] Oh those who falsely claim to fight against the United States, permit the sincere followers of the Imam (God bless his soul), the true combatants against the United States, to tread the proper path of struggle and resistance. Permit the true servants of the oppressed and working Cabinet of the beloved president to offer their services. Repent and deal with the people truthfully. Otherwise, the people will decide about you. I must extend my thanks to the distinguished Friday imams, the martyr-nurturing people and the various strata of the people, who most alertly neutralize any conspiracy with their presence on the scene.

In another part of his speech, Mr 'Azimi referred to the barbaric attack of the American yankees on Panama. He said: The people of the world should know that if they fail to stand up to the criminal United States and condemn its barbarian attack on Panama, undoubtedly the sinister consequences of this crime shall involve

them as well. The revolutionaries of the world must, by threatening the interests of this criminal giant, create fear for it so that it no longer allows itself to engage in such aggression.

Then he offered reminders to the minister of health and treatment and said: The situation with regard to treatment is deplorable. The health and treatment centers, which should be refuges for the oppressed people, have physicians for only 1 or 2 hours a day. We must attend to the health and treatment conditions of the oppressed and deprived people of this country. The gentlemen do not work more than 1 or 2 hours a day in the health and treatment centers, and of course those who are insured are not admitted. You must know at what price these oppressed people instigated this revolution. Let us attend to the conditions of these oppressed people. When we wish to speak of these problems with the minister, unfortunately, he has no time or does not give us time. In an irresponsible tone, he says, I have no time to give to anyone. I am saying this to make it known to him that all the ministers who are selected through the votes of the distinguished representatives of the people must value the views of the representatives of the oppressed people. But this does not mean that we want to weaken the ministers who serve to advance the sacred goals of the revolution and who are on the front lines and in the trenches. What is all this noise about? Constructive criticism that instigates movement in the regime and shows the proper path is never reproachful. The reason we criticize and question why you are insulting the honorable foreign minister and questioning him is that the great leader of the Islamic revolution has prohibited such actions, and you are acting contrary to his command.

Response of the Representative of Ahvaz to the Speech of Mr Rashidian

Mr Seyyed Ahmad Musavi, the representative of the people of Ahvaz, made a brief speech and, responding to the speech of Mr Rashidian, the representative of Abadan, said on Sunday, 10/10/68 [31 December 1989]: Oh God, oh Creator, protect the leader of the revolution for Islam and Muslims, and grant us all the ability to obey him, which is truly obedience to the Prophet. I will use the time that was allotted me to address the insults and false statements that were made yesterday by one of the gentlemen. The truth is that for whatever reason, I did not wish to respond to his insults, because the people of Khuzestan, and in particular the people of Ahvaz, know me and him well and shall judge us well. On the other hand, in order to ensure that his insults do not remain unchallenged in the documents of the Majles, I thought it appropriate to say a few words in my own defense to you dear people. Of course, in keeping with the suggestion of the honorable speaker of the Majles, I shall speak briefly.

Firstly, he, that is, Mr Rashidian, said that I was elected through deception. My question to him is: Did you not take an oath to protect the Constitution and the internal bylaws of the Majles? If your accusation is correct, why did you not object when my credentials were being discussed? If you believe in what you say, was your failure to object not a sin? Is it not a violation of the oath? Secondly, you questioned the executive committee, the supervisory committee, the Council of Guardians, and the branch that examined the case in the Majles as well as the Majles itself which confirmed me. Did all of them act in error, and is Your Honor the only one who is correct? Thirdly, if you will agree, I am prepared for both of us to resign together and become candidates again to see whom the people will elect. If this is difficult for you, let us go to our constituency to see whom the people will accept and whom they will support.

Stating that he wants the truth to be made clear concerning who really practiced deception in the elections and addressing Mr Rashidian, Mr Musavi said: You said that you listened to my speech, which was nonsense. I request that all the representatives and everyone who listened to my speech last month make a comparison and see who has spoken logically, with proof and evidence, and who has spoken nonsense. One of the statements I made which was considered nonsense referred to a statement that you had made in your speeches, that the majority of the Friday imams of Khuzestan supported the administration. I said that this is not correct. In the light of the contacts we made with the representatives of the religious guardians in the province and the Friday imams of the province, this is incorrect. Secondly, you said, majority. I have a request to make of the representatives, and I am sure that they can hear me. We have 17 Friday imams in the Province of Khuzestan. I have a letter which I would like to show you. Anyone who would like to can come and examine it. Of the 17 Friday imams of Khuzestan, 10 have signed it and have refuted your statements. And there is a Friday imam in Ahvaz who has not signed it because he has given his verbal support. Go (all representatives who want to know the truth) and look at the statements that were made yesterday. Look carefully and see how many people are mentioned. Of the total of 17 Friday imams, some of whom did not want to sign—as happens in the Majles, occasionally letters come and some representatives do not sign them—11 persons refuted your statements. I will read the names of the Friday imams who have signed for everyone to hear, and the truth can be clarified for the representatives. The Friday imams who have signed are:

- (1) Hojjat ol-Eslam Araki, distinguished Friday imam of Dezful
- (2) Hojjat ol-Eslam Hoseyni, the Friday imam of Shadgan
- (3) Hojjat ol-Eslam Nahavandi, the Friday imam of Andimeshk
- (4) Hojjat ol-Eslam Vahid, the Friday imam of Aqajari
- (5) Hojjat ol-Eslam Ja'fari, the representative of Haftgel
- (6) Hojjat ol-Eslam Ka'bi, the Friday imam of Hamidiyyeh

- (7) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mojtahedi, the Friday imam of Behbahan
- (8) Hojjat ol-Eslam Nuri, the representative of Masjed-e Soleyman
- (9) Hojjat ol-Eslam Montazeri
- (10) Hojjat ol-Eslam Ayyubi, the Friday imam of Izeh.
- And the representative of the religious guardian in Khuzestan also agreed to these statements, which makes a total of 11.

Details of the Discussion

The only item on the agenda of the open session of the Majles yesterday was the continuation of discussions on the bill for the 5-year plan.

Note 46: The Ministries of Culture and Higher Education and Health, Treatment, and Medical Education are granted permission to invite non-Iranian faculty from abroad (with priority green given to Muslims) to teach only at the doctoral level.

Note 47: Universities and institutions of higher learning and research are granted permission in order to expand and complete fields at the upper and doctorate levels to sign agreements through the Ministries of Culture and Higher Education and Health, Treatment, and Medical Education in regard to the exchange of professors and students and holding seminars and conferences with universities and institutions of higher learning and research centers of foreign countries that have friendly relations with the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Note 48: Universities and institutions of higher learning may establish night courses and special courses. The per capita expenditures may be collected from applicants upon the approval of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education and deposited in the general treasury, and every year an equivalent amount may be spent on related expenditures.

Several proposals concerning this note were made and were not ratified.

New Notes Proposed by the Economy and Finance Committee

Note 49: In order to increase the capital of the Agricultural Bank and provide the financial resources needed by that bank to distribute long-term, low-rate funds, the government is responsible to place at the disposal of said bank the amount of 100 billion rials from the fixed investment funds or the revenues of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran in 5-year installments at 20 billion rials per year.

This proposal was put to a vote and ratified.

Note 5: In order to prevent the decrease in agricultural products, from the date of the ratification of this law, any sort of division of or change in arable lands and orchards for non-agricultural uses shall be prohibited.

The implemental bylaws of this law shall be prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture and ratified by the Cabinet within 3 months.

Unavoidable cases shall be determined by a committee to be identified in the implemental bylaws.

This note was put to a vote and ratified.

New note: In regard to the implementation of that part of the fundamental water and agricultural projects in oppressed areas, in the event that the initial estimated funds are insufficient to complete the project and farmers, due to financial difficulties as determined by the Ministry of Agriculture and the inability to provide as their share in the partnership more than the amount initially agreed upon, the Plan and Budget Organization shall be responsible to provide all funds necessary to complete said project from the funds of other developmental expenditures cited in Chart No 3, Part 2, of this law.

The proposal of the economic and finance committee was put to a vote. It was not ratified, but was rejected.

The open session of the Majles went into recess at 12:15.

Continuation of the Discussions

The Majles held an open session yesterday afternoon presided over by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemian in which the bill for the 5-year plan was discussed.

In this session, several proposals by the economic and finance committee were discussed, which were opposed and rejected by the representatives.

Proposal of the Islamic Guidance and Art Committee

Note: In accordance with this law, permission is granted during the 5-year plan for the equivalent of the revenues obtained from the cultural, artistic, and tourism activities of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance which have been deposited in the treasury to be included in the annual budget of the above-mentioned Ministry on a separate line each year for the purpose of expanding the activities and reducing expenditures and to facilitate the spending of said funds.

This proposal was put to a vote and ratified.

Pakistan

Minister on Protecting U.S., Other Embassies

BK2101091590 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 21 Jan 90 p 1

[By Raja Zulfikar]

[Text] Islamabad, Jan. 20—Federal Interior Minister Chaudhary Aitzaz Ahsan said on Saturday [20 January]

that the Pakistan government, as host to foreign embassies in Islamabad, was well-aware of its responsibility and providing them adequate protection.

Talking to THE MUSLIM, the Interior Minister said there was no extra-ordinary situation with regard to the security of foreign embassies but did not deny that some embassies had received threats from unidentified quarters.

The minister said, the foreign embassies do receive threats from elements who are dissatisfied with the policies of the home governments of the embassies. In such cases, he said, the host country was dutybound to take notice of these threats and act accordingly.

The Interior Minister said Pakistan government was vigilant and would accord full protection to diplomats of foreign countries.

Aitzaz Ahsan was replying to a question as to whether the US embassy in Islamabad had been receiving threats in recent months. The Interior Minister said there was no evidence to suggest that there was cause for any alarm. However, he said, the Pakistan government could not and would not overlook any threats.

Another embassy which has reportedly been receiving threats is the Saudi mission in Islamabad.

The said embassy is said to have requested the Pakistan government for additional protection.

High Commission Denies Indian Reports on Talks

BK2401141990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] The Pakistan High Commission has strongly refuted the Indian media reports that the Pakistani foreign minister during his meetings with the Indian leaders did not describe as wrong the allegations of Pakistan's involvement in Kashmir. The commission described these reports as totally incorrect.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan not only refuted these allegations but also said that disturbances in the Kashmir Valley are of an indigenous nature and are a result of depriving the Kashmiri people of the right to self-determination. The foreign minister reaffirmed the Pakistani stand that it wants to settle the Kashmir dispute peacefully in the spirit of the UN resolutions and the Simla Agreement.

Spokesman Says Meetings With India To Continue

BK2401154590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has commented on the report published in a section of the press that Pakistan will not agree to convene various official meetings with India. The spokesman said the next round of meetings will be held according to the fixed schedule in the coming months. These include the meetings of foreign, defense, and water resources secretaries, surveyors general, and joint commissions.

Iranian Minister Comments on Visit to Pakistan

NC2101084990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Iran and Pakistan have signed a memorandum of understanding and emphasized the need to expand joint cooperation in rural development, training and research, and fishing.

This memorandum of understanding was signed yesterday afternoon in Karachi by Mr Foruzesh, minister of construction jihad, and Saleh Hayat, Pakistan's minister of commerce, local government, and rural development and industries.

In the memorandum of understanding the two sides also agreed to share their experiences in various fields.

Our correspondent reports that Mr Foruzesh, who had gone to Pakistan at the head of an economic delegation, returned to Tehran this morning.

In an interview with our correspondent, he spoke about the results of this visit:

[Begin Foruzesh recording] In the name of God, the Almighty, the Merciful.

We visited Pakistan at the invitation of Mr Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat, minister of commerce, local government, and rural development and industries. The economic, social, political, cultural, and especially religious relations between these two neighboring countries demand that such visits be exchanged on a regular basis.

I conveyed an oral message from His Excellency Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan. We wanted to visit some factories and centers in Pakistan and inspect their activities. The delegation focused on four topics, the first of which was rural development. After the revolution extraordinary services were extended to our rural areas. Countries like Pakistan, which has taken similiar measures, have expressed a desire to learn about the experiences we gained in this. We believe that such experiences should be exchanged. This was one of the objectives of the visit.

Another topic was fishing. Our 5-year plan envisages an extensive program to develop fishing, and we are considering cooperation in this with some countries including our fraternal neighbor Pakistan. We reviewed research and other data that can help achieve this.

The third topic was training and research. Pakistan has expressed interest in using our experts and the fruits of our country's research in some technical fields. Their research has also produced results which will be helpful in the conditions that exist in our condition today.

We also wanted to study new forms of cooperation. Thank God, all four topics were covered and we achieved all our desired objectives with our visit to Pakistan. [end recording]

Ishaq Khan Supports Khomeyni 'Line' on Society

LD1801181390 Tehran IRNA in English 1552 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Islamabad, Jan. 18, IRNA—Grounds for expansion of Tehran-Islamabad ties especially in the commercial and rural development fields were discussed in a meeting today between Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and visiting Minister of Construction Jihad Gholam Reza Foruzesh.

Foruzesh briefed the Pakistani head of state on details of Iran's first 5-year plan and the activities of his ministry both inside and outside the Islamic Republic.

Ishaq Khan welcomed strengthening of mutual relations and said that the two Muslim neighbours should follow the line of the late leader of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeyni in creating a unified and Islamic society.

Meanwhile, Foruzesh and his entourage met with senior Minister without Portfolio Begum Nusrat Bhutto and Commerce Minister Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat.

Expansion of mutual ties especially in trade, fisheries, education and research fields as well as rural development were stressed during the meetings.

Foruzesh arrived here on Tuesday on a 5-day visit.

USSR Offers Assistance in Antarctic Research

BK2101102590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] The Soviet Government has expressed its readiness to assist Pakistan in research work in the Antarctic. This was agreed in principle during the talks between Minister of State for Science and Technology Javed Jabbar and the deputy chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Hydrometeorology, Dr Chilingarov, in Moscow. The Soviet official made assurances that all possible measures will be taken to provide Pakistan with a naval vessel and technical assistance in this regard. Javed Jabbar expressed the hope that the friendly relations between the two countries will strengthen due to cooperation in marine research.

PPP Leader Demands Punjab Chief's Resignation

BK2401154490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] The Pakistan People's Party leader, Malik Ghulam Mustafa Khar, has alleged that the Punjab chief minister is deliberately creating a law and order problem in the province so as to, as he put it, achieve his nefarious designs. He was addressing a news conference in Lahore this evening along with the federal minister for parliamentary affairs, Khwaja Ahmad Tariq Rahim, and the minister of state for information and broadcasting, Mr Ahmad Saeed Awan. He said the Punjab chief minister has no control over the situation and that he should resign voluntarily as he has fully failed to maintain law and order.

'Angry Mob' in Punjab Town Lynches 7 Policemen

BK2401142990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1418 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 24 (AFP)—An angry mob in the small Punjab town of Chiniot lynched seven policemen in rioting triggered by suspicions that police officers had joined local robbers, police said Wednesday.

Three civilians were also killed, one by a gang of robbers and the other two when the seven policemen, whom the crowd suspected of been members of the gang, opened fire in an attempt to defend themselves, police said.

Residents contacted by telephone said Wednesday the town, 200 kilometres (124 miles) south of here, was cut off from the outside by police who had blocked all roads leading to it.

Heavy police reinforcements had been sent to the town and residents had been told to stay indoors indefinitely, they said.

The local administration, however, denied that a curfew had been imposed arguing that the army had not been called in to help quell the disturbances.

Reports here said that after a sudden rise in the crime rate and an alleged police failure to check the increasing number of robberies, residents of Chiniot decided to raise their own force of volunteers to protect the town on a self-help basis.

Sources said violent police-civilian clashes erupted after a volunteer was shot dead by a gang of robbers late Monday. The residents tried to get help from a police patrol, but it refused.

Some of the residents allegedly recognised the driver of the police jeep as one of the robbers who had just attacked the volunteers, sources said, and an angry mob locked the police patrol in a shop until they were eventually released by senior police officials early Tuesday.

A huge crowd gathered outside the shop to identify the alleged robbers and while they were been let out the seven officers, apparently believing the crowd wanted to burn them to death, began to open fire killing one civilian, police said.

About half a dozen people were wounded in the shooting, and one died later of his wounds, sources said.

adding that the incident inflamed the crowd who waited until the seven officers ran out of ammunition and then lynched them.

The mob then went on a rampage setting fire to two police vehicles and the office of the local administration chief, parts of the local courts and also attacked the local police station, police said.

Authorities said the situation was tense but under control.

The Chiniot incident was the second in the Punjab within a week. Last week two people were killed in a police-civilian clash when residents launched a protest against 18 thefts reported in one day in nearby Gojra District.

Central Information Minister Ahmed Saeed Awan in strongly condemning the upsurge in violence has asked Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif, who is also president of the opposition Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI), to resign.

Mr. Sharif has also expressed dissatisfaction at the way the police have controlled the current wave of crimes in his province, Punjab Revenue Minister Arshad Lodhi has said.

Mr. Lodhi said a high level meeting on the law and order situation chaired by Mr. Sharif had asked the central government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to stop issuing licenses to people for Kalashnikov assault rifles without verification from the local police.

Apparently putting blame on the central government, the provincial government has decided to cancel arms licenses granted to all "undesirable elements" during 1989, Mr. Lodhi said.

(Also Wednesday police sources in the city of Hyderabad in the northern province of Sind said a plainclothed policeman was arrested after he and two accomplices tried to rob a shoe factory but were stopped by workers who fought back.

(They said the constable, identified as Javed Ahmed, was arrested at the factory and his two accomplices, the sons of serving policemen, were arrested later and a submachine gun, two revolvers, and a pistol were seized.

(Police said the three had confessed to nine other offences.

(Elsewhere in the state the sister-in-law of leading Sindhi opposition politician, Hameeda Khuhro, opened fire early Wednesday on four burglars killing one when they tried to rob her house in Karachi after tying up her husband, police said.)